アカギ

福本伸行

AKAGI ● Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第20巻

悪霊の闘牌 20

闇に降り立った天才

悪霊の闘牌

福本伸行

TAKE SHOBO

近代麻雀コミックス ● 竹書房

闇の底での闘い。
金切り声で笑う怪物の声だけが聞こえる。
生きたままむさぼり食う、逆上せた獣の目が燃え立つ。
獲物は死によって得られる開放を望んでいるはずだ。
筋肉の繊維は鉤爪でズタズタに引き裂かれ、
肺は焼け、心臓は万力で締め付けられ、
耳鳴りは頭を爆発させそうな…はずだ。
しかし、闇の底の獲物はただ無言で佇む。
――後に神域の男として裏社会に君臨する赤木しげるだった。

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● アカギ ● 福本伸行 ● 近代麻雀好評連載中!!

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第20巻

アガリ!

福本伸行

●TAKE SHOBO●

赤木しげる

あらすじ

昭和33年。チキンランを生き残った少年・赤木しげるは、初めて打つ麻雀でも異才を発揮し、ヤクザ相手の勝負に次々と勝利を収めてゆく。

昭和40年。退屈に倦んだ資産家・鷲巣は、血液を賭ける狂気の麻雀を行っていた。アカギ・仰木・安岡の3人は、殺人鬼・鷲巣を狩るため、生き血を賭けた勝負・鷲巣麻雀に挑む。

5回戦までを終えアカギは約5億円を奪う一方、血液2000ccを失い致死量まであと少し。鷲巣の残り資産は2750万円。新たに順位負けの血液精算とチョンボの支払いをアカギと鷲巣のサシで支払う取り決めを追加。6回戦鷲巣が親のW役満を和了り、99000点差に。残り6局、アカギは追いつけるのか!?

登場人物

鷲巣

権力を利用して巨万の富を築いた老人。麻雀で若者の命をもてあそぶ。

安岡

不良刑事。アカギを立てて鷲巣の資産5億円を奪おうとしている。

仲木

稲田組の若頭。安岡の誘いに乗りアカギを使って鷲巣に挑戦する。

【鷲巣麻雀概要】

アカギが半荘6回戦を戦い抜けばアカギ側の勝利。途中でアカギが絶命すれば、それまでに得た現金も全て没収、鷲巣側の勝利となる。

●レート:1000点＝100万円＝血液100c.c.。アカギと鷲巣のサシ勝負。ウマ(1万・3万)・オカを加算したポイント差で半荘ごとに精算。アカギの致死量2000c.c.は点棒2万点に相当し、鷲巣の現有資産5億円は50万点に相当する。

●ガラス牌:1種4牌のうち3枚が透明ガラス牌。

●ボーナス払い:半荘精算時以外にも、アカギと鷲巣の間で直接点棒の移動があった場合には、その局ごとに血液or現金をやりとりする。

●鷲巣側の特例:半荘2回を区切りとして勝負を続行するか、途中終了するかを、鷲巣側のみ選択できる。

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平成19年1月1日号・2月1日号・3月1日号
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IT'S SO TRANS-PARENT!

PAPER-THIN!

PAPER-THIN!

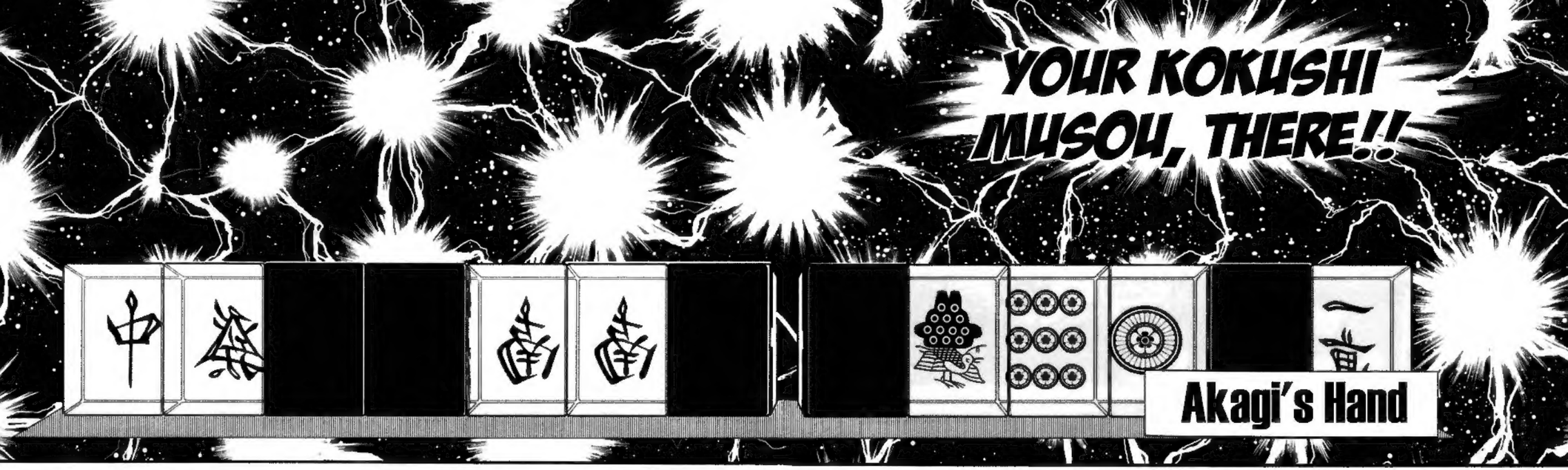
PAPER-THIN

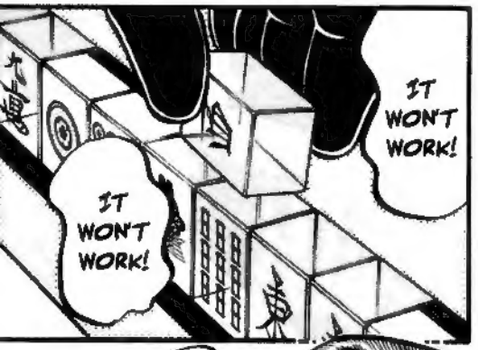
CHAPTER 169:

第169話 張子

THAT KOKUSHI MUSOU!

IT'S JUST A TRANS-PARENT BLUFF!





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TRANSLATED BY SONICKRAZY

CLEANED BY DOC

TYPESETTING BY KAZUHIKO

THIS WILL GO RIGHT ON THROUGH!

THIS YIA!

THE YIA!!

GG HH ...!

SHAHHH!

IT'S NO GOOD, SIR...!

HUH ...?

WA...

WAS-HIZU-SAMA ...!

IF THAT XIA DEALS IN, THEN...

HUH-HHH?

STEP BACK AND THINK FOR A MO-MENT!

YOU SIMPLY MUST NOT DEAL THAT XIA!

IT WILL BE A DIRECT-HIT KOKUSHI MUSOU!

THAT IS THE ONE THING THAT WE MUST LOOK OUT FOR, HERE!

NON-SENSE !!

IN AN INSTANT, THE POINT DIFFERENCE WOULD DECREASE BY A FULL 64,000 POINTS!

THAT WOULD BE 32,000 POINTS!

32000
× 2
64000

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THEY'RE ALL USEFUL ...?

5 OF THE BRAT'S TILES ARE OPAQUE!

USE YOUR EYES !!

IT CANNOT BE!

THAT IS SIMPLY IMPOSSI-BLE!!

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!

THAT ALL 5 OF THEM ARE THE 1S, 9S, AND HONORS HE NEEDS FOR KOKUSHI MUSOU?

THAT BOY COULD SEE IT!

WELL, YES, TO BE FAIR-

WAS-HIZU-SAMA ...

AS IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN!!

HE SAW THAT HIS HAND WAS GOING TO LOSE IN THE RACE TO KOKUSHI MUSOU AGAINST MY HAND, AND THUS...

HE USED THE OPAQUE TILES HE HAD TO ORCH-ESTRATE A BLUFF!

Akagi's Hand

HE TOOK THAT ROUTE AS A LAST RESORT!!

.....

ON HIS SECOND TURN...

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN...

Akagi's Discards

HM MM ?

BUT... BUT THEN...

THAT'S WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE! THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!

WHY WOULD HE LET AN OPAQUE TILE LEAVE HIS HAND ON JUST THE 2ND TURN ...?

Akagi's Discards

ALL HE NEEDED TO DO WAS GLANCE AT YOUR HAND, WAS- HIZU- SAMA...

IN THIS ROUND...

AH...!

IN WHICH CASE...

HE DIDN'T VALUE THE OPAQUE 8-MAN ENOUGH TO KEEP IT PAST THE 2ND TURN!

AND WHETHER HE SHOULD BE STORING OPAQUE TILES TO BLUFF!

TO SEE IF HIS HAND WAS AD- VANCING SLOWER THAN YOURS...

AND YET...

THE EXACT OPPOSITE POSSIBIL- ITY...!

IT WOULD SEEM TO IMPLY...

AHHH ...!

GGG RRR RRR GGG HHH ...!

HM- HMM...

I LEFT IT THERE ON PURPOSE.

SO MY HAND BECAME A BIT SLOWER TO TAKE SHAPE...

HOW- EVER...

I SACRIFICED A BIT OF SPEED...

IT WOULD PLANT A SEED OF DOUBT IN THE ENEMY'S MIND!

THE POWER OF THAT EARLY OPAQUE TILE DISCARD WOULD BE UNLOCKED!

ONCE I'D GOTTEN IT TO A POINT WHERE I COULD RIICHI...

.....

AND WRAP ITSELF AROUND THEIR HEART.

IT WOULD SPROUT INTO A VINE...

THAT SEED WOULD FLOURISH IN THE SOIL OF SUSPICION.

ONCE THE ENEMY TOOK NOTICE OF IT...

TRAP THE ENEMY ...

WITHIN THE FOREST LABYRINTH OF CONFUSION!

IT WOULD DRAG THEM IN!

DON'T YOU GET IT?!

PREPOS-TEROUS !!

GYA AAA AUG H!!

HE'S NOT IN TENPAI FOR ANY-THING!!

IS PRECISELY WHAT HE AIMED TO DO!!

GETTING US TO THINK ALONG THOSE LINES...

WHAT ABOUT IT?!

WHAT ABOUT AKAGI'S RIICHI?

BUT STILL ...

FOR A KOKUSHI, OR ANY-THING ELSE!!!

IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN THAT HE'S NOT IN TENPAI...

ONCE HE'S CALLED RIICHI...

MEANING AKAGI WOULD LOSE 8000 POINTS THEN AND THERE!

AND MORE-OVER...

HE WOULD HAVE TO PAY A MANGAN IN REVERSE...

IF THE GAME IS DRAWN, IT WOULD BE A CHOMBO!

AND IF HE WERE TO PAY 400 AT THIS POINT...

AKAGI WOULD HAVE TO PAY 400 CCS OF HIS BLOOD, AS WELL...

SO IN THE SAME INSTANT, HE WOULD LOSE A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF BLOOD!

YOU WOULD RECEIVE 4000 OF THOSE POINTS AS THE DEALER, WASHIZU-SAMA...

WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT NOT EVEN HE-

FOR HIM TO MAKE A NOTEN RIICHI...

KH AAA UGH HH!!

SO WITH THAT RISK IN MIND...

EVEN IF HE DIDN'T DIE, HE'D BE IN A STATE OF EXTREME LIGHT-HEADEDNESS!

YOU REALLY DO NOT GET IT!!

YOU DON'T GET IT!

HE WOULD DO IT!

IT WOULD MAKE HIM FEEL CLEVER!

THAT WOULD BE A CINCH FOR HIM!

HE COULD EASILY MAKE A NOTEN RIICHI!

AND HE COULD EASILY PLAY AN OPAQUE TILE EARLY ON!

HE HAS NO REGARD FOR HIS OWN LIFE, AND SO...

HE'S ALL BUT TELLING ME HE'S BLUFFING, RIGHT NOW!!

IT'S STRAIGHT-FORWARD!

WAS-HIZU-SAMA ...

.....

HOW CAN YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT SIMPLE CONCEPT ?!

IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, IT IS EXACTLY AS YOU DESCRIBE, WASHIZU-SAMA.

TRUTH-FULLY, I FEEL THAT WAY, AS WELL!

I DO UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEAN!

HUH ...?

AND THINK ABOUT THIS SITUATION ONCE MORE!

I MUST ASK THAT YOU REGAIN YOUR COM-POSURE...

BUT... EVEN SO...

IT'S AN OVER-WHELMING SAFETY NET!

YOU ARE IN FIRST PLACE WITH A 99,000-POINT LEAD OVER AKAGI!

WAS-HIZU-SAMA, THE WAY THINGS ARE...

COM-PLETES AKAGI'S KOKUSHI MUSOU...

THAT YOUR XIA...

IN THE ONE IN A THOUSAND, MILLION OR BILLION CHANCE...

HOW-EVER...

IT WILL BE A YAKUMAN IN THE 2ND HONBA...

WHICH MEANS, THE 99,000 POINT DIFFERENCE YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW...

WOULD BE DEPLETED TO JUST 33,800!

THE POINT DIFFERENCE WOULD BE REDUCED BY 65,200 IN AN INSTANT!

MAKING IT WORTH 32,600 POINTS...!

THAT DEALER HANEMAN WOULD TOPPLE IT OVER IF IT WERE A DIRECT HIT!

THEN A HAND LIKE THIS, RIICHI, TANYAO, CHII TOITSU WITH 2 DORA...

AND IF IT WERE JUST A POINT DIFFERENCE OF CLOSE TO 34,000...

IF YOU DEAL INTO THAT KOKUSHI, NOW...

THAT DIRE CIRCUM-STANCE COULD OCCUR!

IT IS VERY MUCH POS-SIBLE!

GGH ...!

HIS ADVANTAGE HAS MISLED HIM.

HAVE THE POWER TO KILL PEOPLE.

ADVAN-TAGES...

THEY TEND TO BECOME ARROGANT.

WHENEVER PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEY ARE SUPERIOR TO THEIR OPPO-NENTS...

TO HOLD THEM BACK FROM SUC-CESS.

ONCE THEY'VE PASSED THAT HORIZON...

ONCE THEY FEEL THEY'RE OUT OF REACH... THAT THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN BE DOMINATED.

BUT... FOR THAT, AS WELL...

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO CONTINUE FIGHTING!

THEY'VE ALREADY WON!

EVERYONE I'VE EVER FACED HAS BEEN LIKE THAT.

BUT THAT ASIDE, I HAVE HIS FORTUNE!

THAT'S UNDER-STAND-ABLE.

WASHIZU IS ALSO FEELING A SENSATION SIMILAR TO THAT, RIGHT NOW.

SOME-THING AS PRECIOUS AS HIS VERY LIFE...

HIS MONEY IS NOW ALMOST ENTIRELY MINE!

HE SHOULDN'T GO ANY-WHERE NEAR IT!

THAT HE FEELS THE SITUATION IS EVEN SLIGHTLY DANGER-OUS..

SO IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN..

IS TELLING HIM NOT TO THINK OF THIS AS A DONE GAME!

REA-SON ...

WITH THAT IN MIND ...

IN THIS SITUATION, IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

AND THAT REASONING IS CORRECT!

MAKES A LEAP OF FAITH AND DISCARDS THAT "REASON"...

IF IT HAP-PENS THAT WAS-... HIZU...

BUT WHICH WAY WILL HE LEAN...?

HIS INSANITY!

IT WOULD BE BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONALITY...

THEN I'LL BE DONE FOR!

IF HE TRUSTS HIS INSANITY TO GUIDE HIM ALONG THE RIGHT PATH...

THAT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO WIN MORE OFTEN THAN NOT...

IF HE CHOOSES THE LOGICAL OPTION...

IF HE PROTECTS HIMSELF..

HOW-EVER...

THE TIDES WILL CHANGE!

FOR ME TO KILL

WASHIZU!

I CAN WIN!

ごわ

ごわ

CHAPTER 170 - DELUSION -

第170話 妄想

SO LONG AS WASHIZU USES REASON!

ごわ

AND... AND BE-SIDES...

I CAN WIN THIS!

BY ANY EARTHLY SCALES!

THAT MAN IS A DEMON THAT CAN'T BE MEASURED...

THERE'S A 99,000-POINT DIFFERENCE!

AND THIS ROUND IS ESPECIALLY UNUSUAL!

GGH...!

I'M SURE YOU KNOW ALL TOO WELL ABOUT THAT, WASHIZU-SAMA!

THEY'RE FOLLOWING YOU ABOUT... TEMPTING YOU IN!

DARK CLOUDS GATHERED ALL AROUND THIS TABLE!

BUT BEFORE WE KNEW IT...

WE WERE ALL THINKING THERE WOULD BE NO MORE PROBLEMS AFTER THIS...

AN ALL-OR-NOTHING GAMBLE!

FORCEFULLY DRAGGING YOU INTO...

THIS IS IT!

THIS IS EXACTLY HOW HE CAUSES SO MUCH FEAR!

IT'S HERE!

GGH...!

THE FACT THAT YOU CAN WIN BY PLAYING IT SAFE THE REST OF THE GAME!

TRYING TO GET YOU TO DISCARD YOUR ADVANTAGE...

WITH HIS DEMONIC ABILITY TO CONTROL PEOPLES' HUMAN NATURE!

GOING UP AGAINST IT IS USE-LESS!

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, IT WAS BIZARRE!

TO PUT IT ONE WAY..

IS BECAUSE OF HIS DEVILISH POWER!

THE VERY FACT THAT YOU WERE ABOUT TO DEAL THAT XIA, JUST NOW...

WASHZIU-SAMA, YOU ARE BEING MANIPU-LATED!

HE DOES NOT THINK THE WAY PEOPLE OF OUR WORLD DO!

THAT MAN IS AN UN-USUAL KIND!

HIS WILL IS OVER-POWERING YOUR JUDGE-MENT!

YOU ARE BEING POSSES-SED!

YOU'RE SAYING SOME AWFUL THINGS RIGHT NOW!

A DEMON? POSSES-SION?

BY ALL RIGHTS, YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN ALLOW YOUR EYES TO MEET WITH HIS!

HE IS A DEMON INCAR-NATE!

JUST TALKING FOR THE SAKE OF TALKING, HMM?

HM-HMM-HMM...!

Yes...

DO YOU HEAR HOW INCOHER-ENT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS?

ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING TO YOUR-SELF?

Right now... Under these circum-stances...

A respect-able point of view!

This is logical reasoning!

How-ever...

It was incoherent rambling...

Which served to amplify their image of him.

They were all fearing Akagi... They were filled with worry...

And from there, their delusions began to grow on their own!

Rising up from this panicked circum-stance!

And say that it was impossible for Akagi to have a Xia wait...

If some-one were to speak up now...

That person —

They walked themselves into a place where they could not see the full picture!

And quickly —

Would undoubtedly be mocked and ridiculed!

Branded as a fool who had no rationality!

And yet...

They had no way of knowing that!

However...

They couldn't see it!

Were actually these men!

Right now, the truly irrational ones...

For they were blinded by smoke!

AND THE RESULTING EXPANSION OF SMOKE...

THEY HAD SPARKED A FIRE WITH THEIR DESIRE FOR SELF-PRE-SERVATION...

Had caused them to lose their vision!

URG-HHH-RGH ...!

They could not realize the true advantage that they had in this round!

They were unable to feel it!

As a result ...

Which is why...

WASHIZU-SAMA!!

The road to victory that was available!

WE MUST WARD IT AWAY, IMMEDIATELY!

IF THERE'S EVEN A 1% CHANCE THINGS COULD GO WRONG...

THERE'S NO NEED TO PUT YOURSELF IN ANY SORT OF DANGER!

BUT EVEN SO, WE HAVE TO PUT UP AN IMPREGNABLE DEFENSE RIGHT NOW!

I AM NOT SAYING THAT I'M WORRIED!

URGGHHHHH...!!

WASHIZU-SAMA!!

WASHIZU-SAMA...!

PLEASE STAVE OFF THAT DANGER!!

.....

GGHH...!

.....

THAT'S A MISTAKE.

.....

IT'S A CHINK IN THEIR ARMOR!

IS FAR TOO FRAGILE.

THAT THOUGHT...

THAT NOTION OF "IF THERE'S A 1% CHANCE THINGS COULD GO WRONG"...

IS, IN ACTU-ALITY...

THE STR-ENGTH YOU NEED TO WIN...

STREN-GTH...

IT'S TOO DEFEN-SIVE... TOO DENSE.

DERIVED FROM VAGUE-NESS!

YOU'VE UNEXPECTEDLY CAUSED IT TO BECOME EXTREMELY FRAGILE!

BUT BY CONSTRUCTING YOUR BUILDING OUT OF TOO HARD A MATERIAL...

YOU WANT TO PROTECT IT FROM TREMORS...

YOU DON'T WANT IT TO FALL OVER...

BECAUSE YOU'VE GIVEN NO ROOM FOR IT TO SWAY!

IT WILL CRACK!

IF SOMETHING AT ALL UNEXPECTED HAPPENS...

IT WILL BE UNABLE TO STAND UP!

WILL LEAD TO THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE TOPPLING DOWN!

AND THAT CRACK

WHY CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT...?

IN THE END...

WAS-HIZU ...

THE ADVANTAGE HAS TURNED WASHIZU INTO AN ORDINARY PERSON!

HIS ADVANTAGE IS POISON FOR HIM!

GR RRR GGG HHH ...!!

WASHIZU-SAMA!!

WHOA ...!!

WAS-HIZU-SAMA!

THAT'S ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT!!

THAT'S RIGHT!

He gave in!

And dealt 1-Man!

In the end, Washizu gave in to the temptation of security...

That was ...

He broke up his Kokushi Musou Tenpai!

He kept the dangerous Xia in his hand...

And pre-serve his tremen-dous good fortune!

In order to try...

Given by his luck!

To preserve what he had... to retreat back into the advantage...

And so he discar-ded it!

His winning flow!

He threw away his chance at winning the game then and there...

Relieved that he had avoided an apparent crisis!

His subordinates were relieved!

However...

As if it were a matter of course...

He received it!

And yet, just 2 turns later...

For all intents and purposes, it seemed like the correct move to make!

THE WINNING TILE FOR HIS KOKUSHI MUSOU, THE HAKU!

HE DREW THE HAKU!

IT DOESN'T MATTER..

YES, THIS.. IT DOESN'T MATTER...

AHH...!

GGH ...!

KGH ...!

KRRRR RGHHH ...

And then, on the 10th turn...

IS 500/700!

JUST MENZEN TSUMO... 300/500 WITH 2 HONBA...

TSUMO!

With this Tsumo by Suzuki...

Was most likely a Noten Riichi, but...

Akagi's Kokushi hand...

The round has come to an end!

チャラ...

If he could manage to Tsumo, then...

In the one-in-a-thousand chance his hand were in Tenpai...

チャラ...

The difference would be decreased by 48,800!

And after all the payments were made...

Washizu would be forced to pay 16,200 Points as dealer!

So ending the round as soon as possible was the prudent thing to do!

Washizu's ability to win had disap-peared...

He had to remove the risk of that!

KGH!

THIS IS FINE! ABSO-LUTELY!

YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT!

YOU JUST MADE THE BEST MOVE, WASHIZU-SAMA!

NO, SIR! NO!

IN THE END... WAS THIS... A FAILURE...?

HE'S KEEPING HIS COOL QUITE WELL, BUT...

IN REALITY, HE'S EXTREMELY DESPERATE!

AKAGI MUST BE STRUGGLING, TOO!

IS TREMENDOUSLY SECURE!

THIS PLAYING STYLE...

HE'S BEEN BACKED INTO A CORNER!

HE'S NOW IN A VERY UNWELCOME POSITION...

ALL RIGHT...
IT'S CHANGED!

THE FLOW HAS FINALLY CHANGED!

ゴゴ...

ゴゴ...

ゴゴ...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT!

NOW...

I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU... WASHIZU IWAO!

WIN WITHOUT A FIGHT

CHAPTER 171:

第171話 不戦

GRGH ...!

WHA... WHAT'S THE MEAN-ING OF THIS ?!

THAT FACE ...?!

YOU JUST LOST THE CHANCE...

FOR A FEAR-SOME HAND...

YOU SMILE ?!

YOU LOST, AND YET...

AND YET YOU MOCK ME?!?!

KG HHH ...!

KILL

I'LL WIN!!

I'LL TAKE THE OBVI-OUS WIN!

WIN!!

I'LL WIN... WIN!!

THAT BOY'S ...

I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT!

OUTRAGEOUSLY RUDE BEHAVIOR!!

I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, NOW!!

I HAVE NO CHO-ICE!

ONCE I'VE KILLED HIM! ONCE I'VE WON!!

I'LL FORCE THAT RUDE SMIRK OFF HIS FACE ...

THAT'S THE RIGHT ATTITUDE!

WAS-HIZU-SAMA!

THAT'S RIGHT!

ONCE I'VE BURIED THAT DEMON IN THE GROUND!!

THIS POSI-TION IN FIRST!

IS HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU HAVE!

RIGHT NOW, THAT'S ALL YOU NEED!

THAT'S THE WAY TO LOOK AT IT!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO NOW...

THERE'S NO NEED TO BRING YOUR POINTS ANY HIGHER THAN THAT!

THE DIFFER-ENCE IS 98,800 POINTS!

.....

IN OTHER WORDS, WIN WITHOUT FIGHTING!

THAT'S THE BEST STRATEGY, WHERE WE ARE!

YOU JUST HAVE TO SAFELY END EACH ROUND...

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...

RUN AWAY WITH YOUR LEAD!

AKAGI WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING!

IF YOU JUST FOLD EVERY HAND FROM START TO FINISH...

WITH THAT NEARLY 100,000-POINT DIFFER-ENCE...

WITH ONLY TSUMOS AND WINS OFF THE OTHER TWO PLAYERS...

THE OUTCOME HE'LL WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING IS DIRECT HITS!

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK AT ALL!

THAT SMILE JUST NOW WAS ABOUT!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT...

SO WITH THAT IN MIND... HE'LL WANT TO TRY AND TEMPT YOU TO DEAL WHAT HE NEEDS WHEN THE TIME COMES...

THAT SMILE...

HUH...?

WAS HIS LAST REMAINING ATTEMPT..

TO TRY AND RETALIATE AGAINST YOU!

TO PROVOKE YOU INTO FACING HIM HEAD-ON!

BY SMILING LIKE THAT...

HE HOPES TO IRRITATE YOU...

THERE IS NOTHING ELSE THAT HE CAN DO!

.....

HIS LAST SLIVER OF HOPE!

THAT IS HIS ATTEMPT TO OPEN UP SOME SORT OF CHANCE FOR HIM TO FIGHT BACK!

WHICH IS WHY...

GGH...

EVEN IF YOU DON'T COM-PLETE A HAND...

AND GO THROUGH ONE OR TWO MORE ROUNDS, RIGHT NOW!

OF NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES ...

YOU SHOULD SIMPLY KEEP UP THIS PACE...

JUST KEEPING UP THAT PACE WILL START THE COUNTDOWN TO HIS DEATH!

NATURALLY, HE'LL BE PETRIFIED!

MM...

AFTER JUST ONE OR TWO MORE ROUNDS!

HE CERTAINLY WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP THAT SMILE!

HE'LL BE THE ONE IN TROU-BLE!

MMM
MMM
...
.....
Ooo

.....
HEY!
I'LL WIN THIS! BY TAKING THE SAFE WAY OUT, EVERY HAND.
START IT UP!

WAS-HIZU-SAMA...!
DON'T WORRY!

I MUST ADMIT, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT...
MOST LIKELY!
I UNDER-STAND, ALREADY.

THAT DEMON WON'T HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE!
THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT FOR HIM...

I'VE GOT IT.
WAS-HIZU-SAMA!

GET START-ED!

THEN HURRY UP AND GET THROUGH THE ROUND!

IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE...

YES...

YES, SIR!

After being pro-mpted by Washizu...

Suzuki takes his move!

The East 4th Round!

And retrieves the Dora Indicator, beginning the round!

He reaches into the draw pile...

First with Suzuki...

And then...

The starting hands are drawn!

And then...

With Akagi, as well!

Is now under-way!

The East 4th Round ...

.....

Oo。

IT'S TRUE...

カチャ

東

WITH THAT KOKUSHI JUST NOW...

IT'S JUST AS WASHIZU'S UNDERLING SAID!

BECAUSE HE WAS ACTUALLY IN NOTEN!

WAS REALLY A LIFESAVER FOR AKAGI!

THE FACT THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE TO OPEN OUR HAND...

IF WASHIZU CONTINUES TO FOLD LIKE HE DID IN THE ROUND JUST NOW...

THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT...

IT WILL STILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US!

HOW-EVER ...

HE MANAGED TO BARELY SCRAPE OUT OF THERE WITH HIS LIFE INTACT!

HIS LIFE WAS SAVED WHEN WASHIZU FOLDED HIS HAND!

HE'LL HAVE TO GET DIRECT HITS, NO MATTER WHAT!

TO MAKE THAT BACK UP...

THERE'S A 98,800-POINT DIFFERENCE!

FOR THE REMAINING 5 ROUNDS ...

.....

Oo

AND IN ORDER FOR THAT TO HAPPEN...

50,000 POINTS IN DIRECT HITS...!

GETTING WASHIZU TO DEAL INTO ALL OF THEM...

AN IN-CREDIBLE FEAT!

WHILE ALSO...

HE'LL HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER MANGAN OR HANEMAN HANDS IN ALL OF THEM...

WITHIN THE REMAINING 5 ROUNDS, ALONE...

カチャ…

Washizu's Hand

WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE YOUR OPPONENT'S TILES IN THIS MAHJONG VARIANT...

FOLDING IS EXTREMELY EASY TO ACCOM-PLISH!

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING!

IF HE DOESN'T FACE US HEAD-ON...

……

IT'S HOPE-LESS!

FOR US TO GET MANGANS AND HANE-MANS 5 TURNS IN A ROW...

Ooo

IT'S COM-PLETELY HOPE-LESS!

LET ALONE FOR THEM TO BE DIRECT HITS!

AND AVOIDS EVERY-THING WE TRY TO DO, THEN...

IF WASHIZU FOLDS AT THE FIRST SIGN OF DANGER...

……

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

BUT...

EVEN SO...

FOR THE UN-PREDICT-ABLE TALENT...

COULD THERE BE A WAY?

Akagi's Hand

OF AKAGI?!

BE A WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT INSANE FEAT?!

THEN COULD THERE, BY SOME CHANCE ...

IF AKAGI SHIGERU IS THE ONE DO DO IT...

FOR MANGAN OR HANEMAN...!

TO GET 5 STRAIGHT DIRECT HITS...

CHAPTER 172 CHEAPER OUT

第172話 安目

TRULY A FEAT OF DIVINE POSSESSION!

IF HE CAN'T PULL THAT OFF... STARTING RIGHT HERE AND NOW...
BUT... IF HE CAN'T DO THAT...
ALL THAT MONEY WILL VANISH...
I'LL LOSE MY ARM...
WE'LL BE FACED WITH A HORRIFYING DEFEAT!
DEFEAT ....!

A TRAG-EDY!

GGH ....!

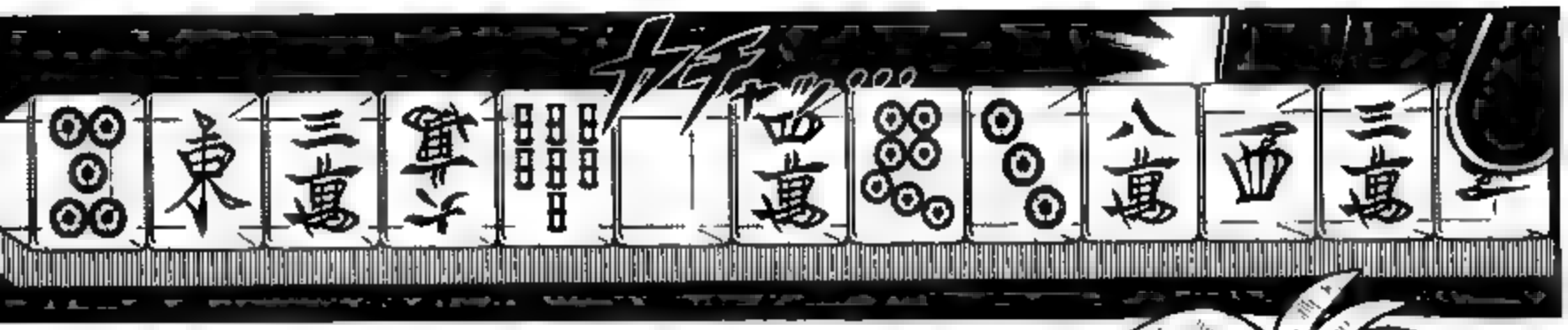
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

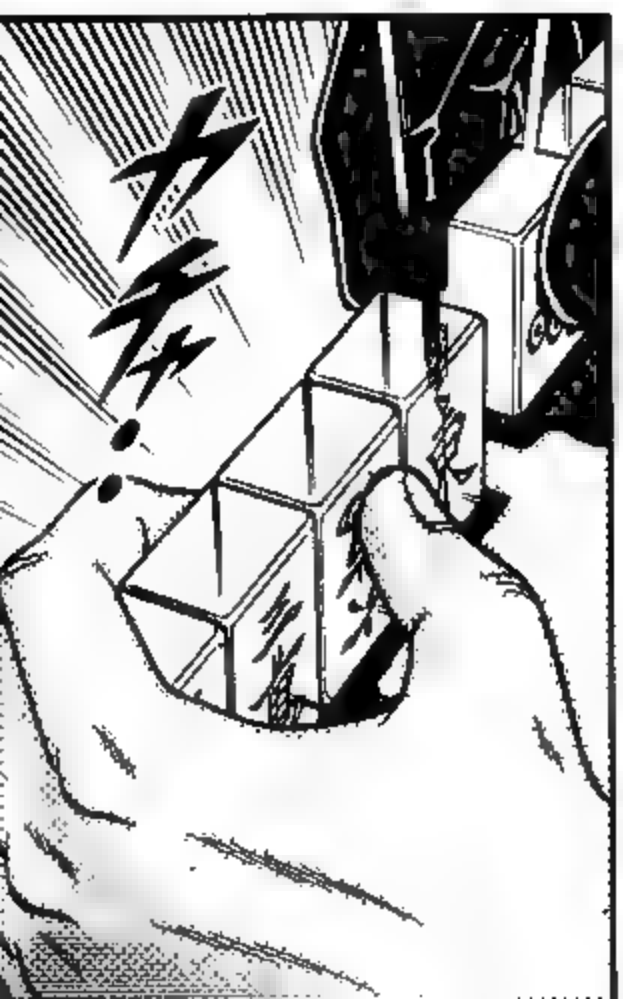
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT, AT LEAST!

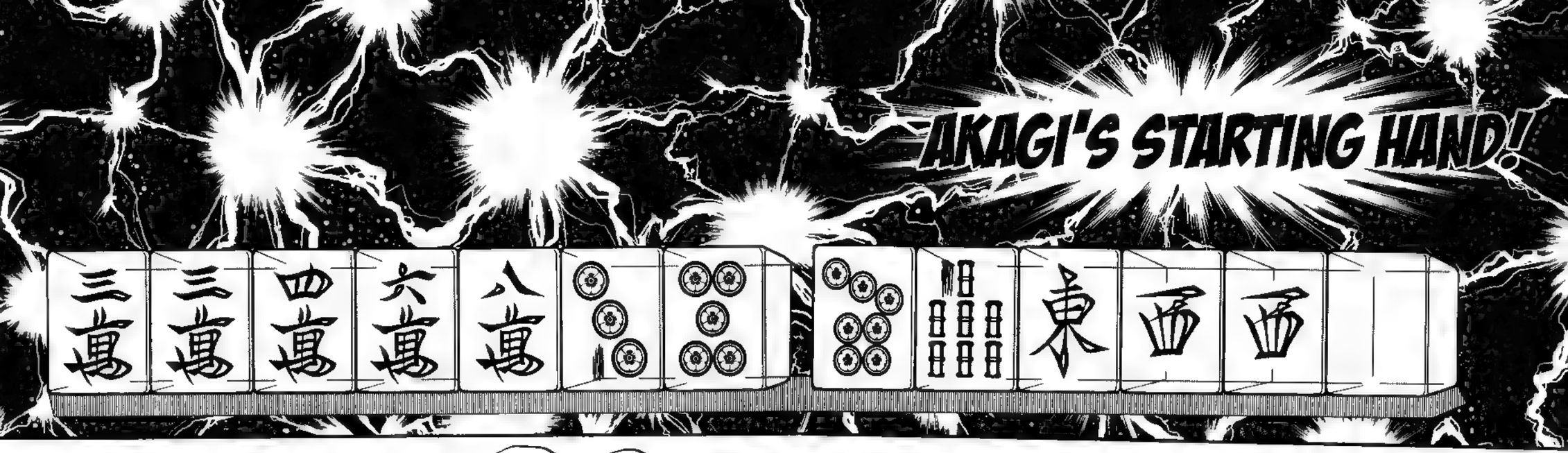
PLEASE ....!

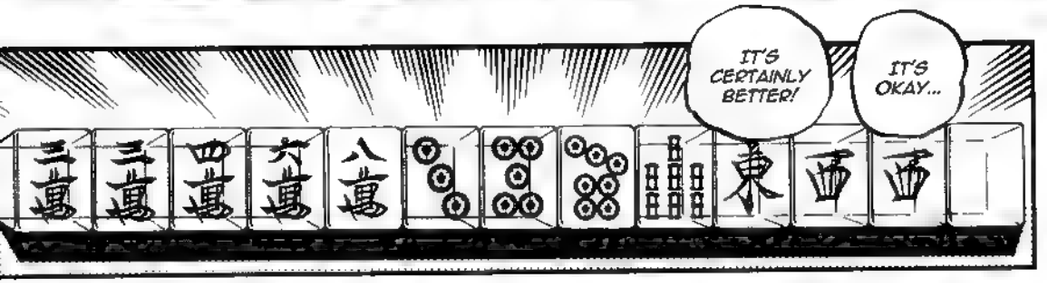
AKAGI! I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!

ナデ……






AKAGI'S STARTING HAND!


IT'S CERTAINLY BETTER!
IT'S OKAY...

BUT STILL...
IT'S GETTING THERE!
ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE BRUTAL STARTING HAND HE HAD, LAST ROUND...

Akagi, in the South Seat, has this starting hand.

East 4th Round.
Washizu Mahjong, the 6th and Final Session.

WELL...
.....

IT'S NOT NEARLY UP TO THE LEVEL WE NEED IT TO BE!

9-MAN...

HE'S DE-CIDED ON THAT RIGHT FROM THE START!

SO HE'S AIMING FOR HON ITSU.

I SEE...

.....

WHICH MEANS ...

THE DIFFER-ENCE IS NEARLY 100,000 !!

ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT...

CUTTING ANYTHING THAT ISN'T A MANZU OR HONOR TILE... THAT'S HIS PLAN!

SO WITH THAT IN MIND...

HE HAS TO FIND A WAY TO TAKE HIS HAND TO MANGAN, EVERY ROUND!

HE CAN'T JUST TAKE THE QUICKEST ROUTE TO TENPAI, ALL THE TIME!

BUILDING OFF THAT, IF HE CAN ADD ITSUU TO THIS HON ITSU...

AND KEEP THE WHOLE THING CLOSED AT THE SAME TIME...

THAT WAY IS HON ITSU!

FOR THIS HAND, HERE ...

A RIICHI, PINFU, HON ITSU, ITSUU HAND!

HE COULD GET THIS KIND OF HAND!

IF HE GETS LUCKY ENOUGH, THERE'S A CHANCE!

IT'S POSSI-BLE!

IT WOULD BE BAI-MAN!

IF HE CAN ADD JUST ONE URA-DORA TO IT...

THAT HAND MIGHT JUST TAKE SHAPE!

THERE IT IS! HE GOT IT!!
WHOA-!
三萬 四萬 六萬 八萬 九萬
東 西 西
HE DREW IT IN! THE CRITICAL 7-MAN!!
七萬 八萬 九萬
六萬
To both his hopes and his prayers...
To Ohgi's thoughts...
And as if responding...
WITH THIS... COULD IT PERHAPS... BE ON ITS WAY...?
After this, Akagi...

CONTINUED TO DRAW THEM!!

And then 1-Man! His hand went higher and higher!

2-Man!

KEEP IT UP!

THAT'S THE WAY!

GOOD, GOOD ...!

ALL RIGHT!

How-ever...

On his 7th Turn...!

.....

AFTER GETTING ALL THOSE MANZU TILES TO NOW...?!

WHAT THE HECK...! WHY ARE YOU DRAWING IT THERE, OF ALL PLACES...?!

GGHH ...!!

Akagi cuts the Chun, here!

HE ACCEPTS HIS HAND'S PROGRESSION TO 1-SHAN-TEN!

Akagi's Hand

HE CAN STILL GET A MANGAN HAND!

IT'LL BE RIICHI, PINFU, ITSUU!

Akagi's next draw is...

A MANGAN HAND IS STILL GOOD!

BUT, WELL...

And yet...

WHICH IS A BIT UN-FORTU-NATE...

HE CAN'T GET HANEMAN OR BAIMAN ANYMORE...

FOR GOING STRAIGHT TOWARDS HON ITSU...

HE HAD SUCH A GOOD FLOW...

SHIT ...!

TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS HAND...

WELL ...

IF HE CAN PULL IN THE 5-MAN, NOW, THEN...

BUT...

SHIT!

AND WHEN HE WAS ONE STEP AWAY FROM IT, THIS HAP-PENS!

SHIT!!

2-MAN!

GRGH...!!

HIS CHEAPER OUT FOR TENPAI!

THERE'S NO POINT!

FUCK!!

FUCK!

GRAUGH!!

IT'S JUST A RIICHI, PINFU!

HON ITSU AND ITSUU ARE GONE, NOW...

THERE'S NO POINT IN KEEPING IT!

HE MADE IT TO TENPAI, BUT...

CUT THE 7- OR 8-PIN, HERE!

AKAGI!

WHEN WE'RE UP AGAINST A 100,000-POINT DIFFERENCE...

ONLY 2000 POINTS! IT'S AS GOOD AS WORTHLESS!

Akagi very easily...

THEN HON ITSU AND ITSUU WILL STILL BE ACHIEVABLE!

IF YOU CAN PULL IN THE 5-MAN AFTER THAT...

However...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE ACCEPTING 2000-POINT HANDS!

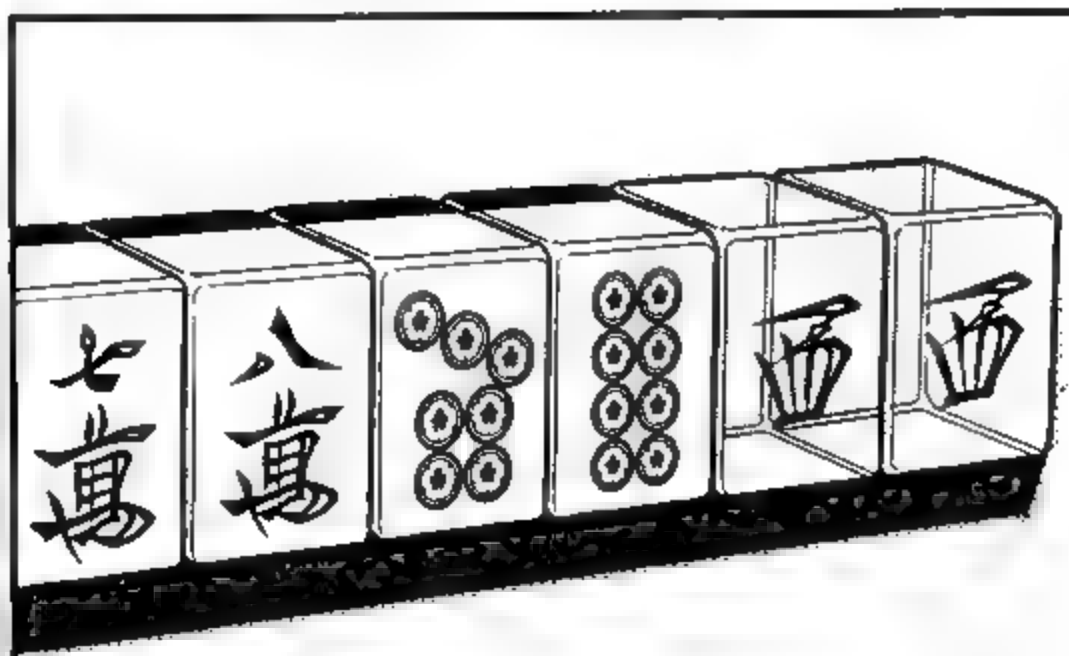
Without hesitating a moment, he calls riichi!
RIICHI.
Charges straight forward!!
From Ohgi's perspective...
He is shocked and dumbfounded!
This is a stupefying Riichi!

ざわ…
……
It is aim-less!
It is mean-ingless!
GYR-GHH…!
THIS HAND IS ONLY WORTH 2000 POINTS!!
IM-POSSI-BLE!!
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!!
An incom-prehen-sible Riichi!
AKAGI!!
YOU THINK THESE TINY WINS ARE GOING TO CUT IT HERE?!
THE DIFFER-ENCE IS 100,000!
AND ON TOP OF THAT…
DON'T YOU GET IT, AKAGI?!
THAT'S THE LAST THING YOU SHOULD BE DOING, HERE!!

AUUUGHHHH!!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?!

IT'S FINE... THIS IS PLENTY.



IN FACT, THIS HAND IS PERFECT!

THIS IS A GOOD OMEN ...

IT MAY BE A BIT CHEAP, BUT THIS HAND...

THE FLOW'S DEFINITELY CHANGED, THIS ROUND.

HAS THE IDEAL FLOW!

AN OMEN THAT'LL PAVE THE ROAD FOR A COMEBACK!

TO WORK MY WAY BACK TO THE TOP!

THE IDEAL FLOW FOR ME...

GR-GHH ....!

CHAPTER 173 - FOLDING

第173話 降り

KRR GHH HHH ...!!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

RIICHI ?!

IDIOT!!

YOU REALLY MEAN TO RIICHI, HERE?!

YOU NEED TO SCORE DIRECT HITS FROM ME!

YOU CALL RIICHI ...?!

AT A TIME WHEN DIRECT HITS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY THING ELSE...

NOBODY COULD!

DON'T YOU SEE?!

NOT IF YOU ACT LIKE THAT!!

YOU'LL NEVER GET IT THRO-UGH!!

ARE YOU RETARDED?!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT BACK

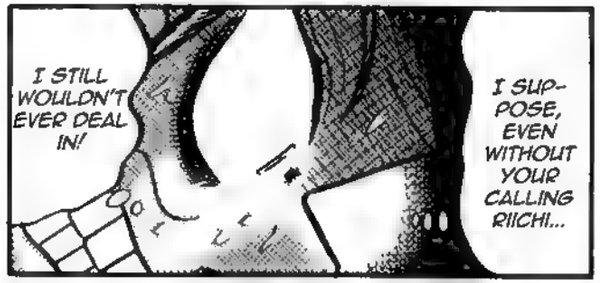
YOU SHOULDN'T LET ME KNOW YOU'RE IN TENPAI!!

ゴゴゴ

Washizu's Hand

WHICH MEANS ...
THAT HAND...
YOU CAN'T WIN WITH HANDS WORTH JUST 1000 OR 2000 POINTS...

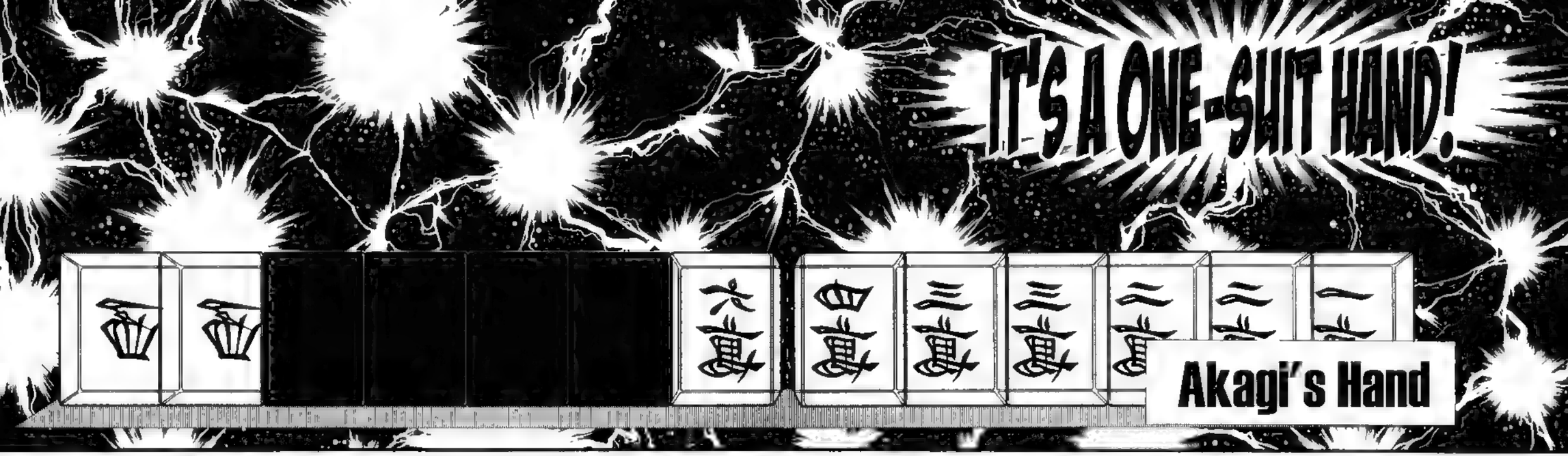
WHICH MEANS ...
HE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THAT!
HAS TO BE AT LEAST MANGAN!

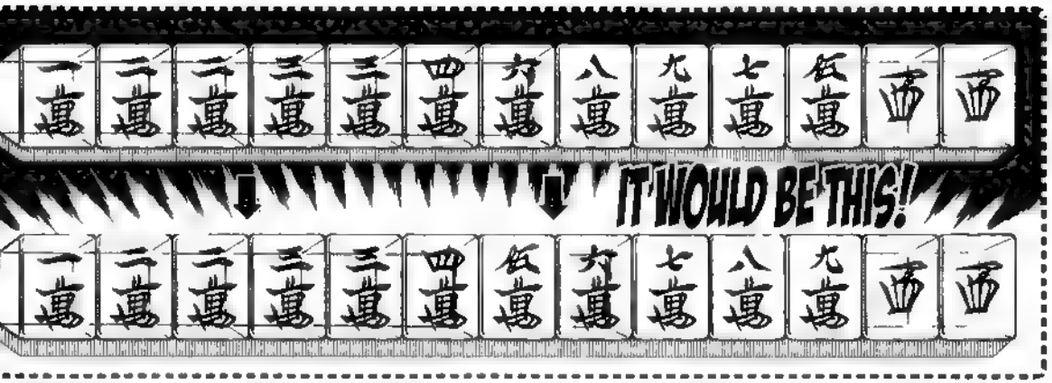

I STILL WOULDN'T EVER DEAL IN!
I SUP-POSE, EVEN WITHOUT YOUR CALLING RIICHI...

IS SO OBVIOUS IT'S PAINFUL!
WHAT YOU'RE AIMING FOR, HERE...

IF YOU WANT TO HOLD ONTO ANY CHANCE OF SURVIVING, THEN...
IN THESE REMAINING 5 ROUNDS...

WELL...
.....


IT'S A ONE-SUIT HAND!
Akagi's Hand

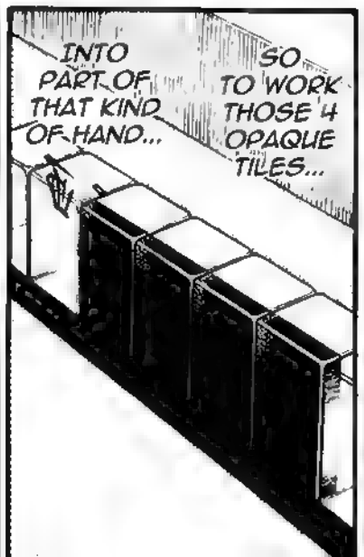

IT WOULD BE THIS!

THAT'S IT!
HON ITSU OF MANZU, FOR MAN-GAN!

WOULD BE THE IDEAL SHAPE!
THAT BAIMAN HAND...
HOW-EVER...

WITH A CHANCE FOR II PEI KOU!
RIICHI, PINFU, HON ITSU, AND ITSUU...

.....


INTO PART OF THAT KIND OF HAND...
SO TO WORK THOSE 4 OPAQUE TILES...

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN! YOU WON'T BE GETTING IT FROM ME!

I WON'T DEAL IN!

Yes...

And thus...

He is thinking only about how to best defend himself!

Is on the complete defensive!

Washizu, at this moment...

How-ever...

He would never deal into such an obvious Hon Itsu as this!

The story entirely changes!

If it's an unpredictable, cheap hand, then...

Outside of his con-sideration!

It would be under his radar!

He couldn't imagine it!

It would not factor into his reasoning...

After all, there was a 100,000-point difference!

On the 9th turn...

Which is why...

That Akagi might win with 1000 or 2000-point hands!

This Chii Toitsu...

He immediately chose to fold his hand!

Despite having entered into a Chii Toitsu Tenpai by drawing the 7-man...

And yet...

For having a combination play to give him an Ippatsu win!

Was also in Suzuki's hand! It was the ideal circum-stance...

And what's more, this 4-man...

Could wait on the 4-man if he cut the 5-Man.

YOU REALLY THINK I'LL GIVE INTO TEMPTATION AND DEAL YOUR MANZU, HERE?

RIDICU-LOUS!

I'M FOLDING!

HMPH!

Washizu could not care less about that, at this point in the game!

But...

I'LL JUST FOLD!

Akagi had aimed for the 9-Pin that would come from folding!
That "fold" was his true aim!
RIICHI, PINFU...
RON.
HUH ...?!

WITH 1 URA.

ゴゴゴ…

……

3900.

ざわ…

?

?

WHA …?!

ざわ…

ざわ

THE HELL IS THIS?!

THIS HAND ?!

3900 ...?!

WHAAA ...?!

JUST A 2000-POINT HAND...!!

IT WOULD'VE BEEN JUST RIICHI, PINFU...

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE URA DORA...

IT GOT TO 3900, BUT...

IF HE'D KEPT THOSE TWO HAKU HE DISCARDED, THEN...

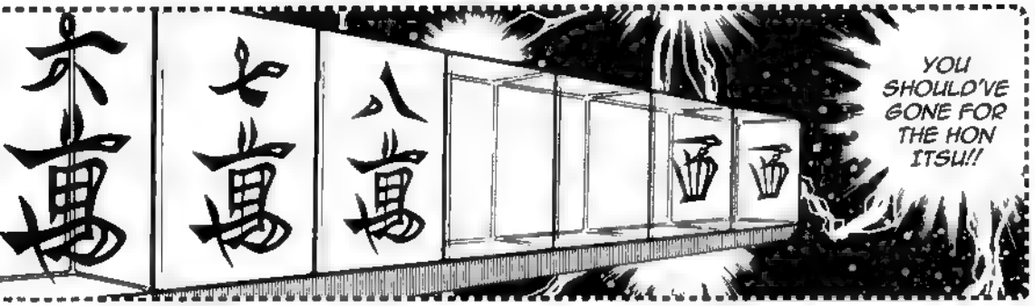
WITH THIS HAND ...!!

HE COULD'VE DONE MUCH BETTER ...!

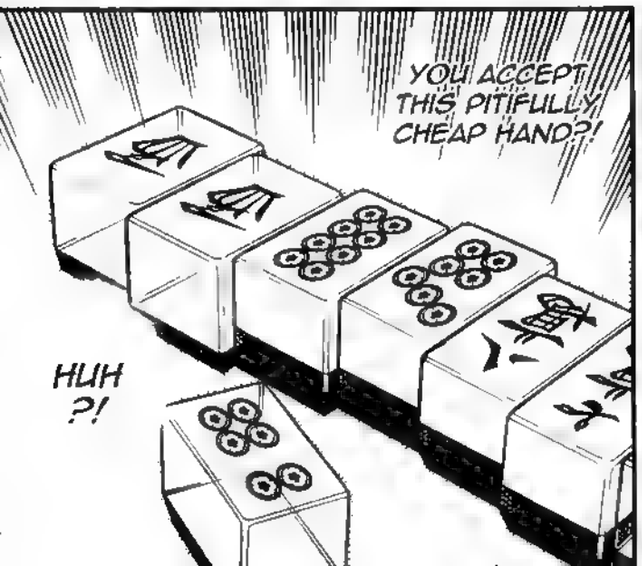
IMPOSSIBLE ...!!

IT WOULD BE...

THIS HON ITSU HAND!!

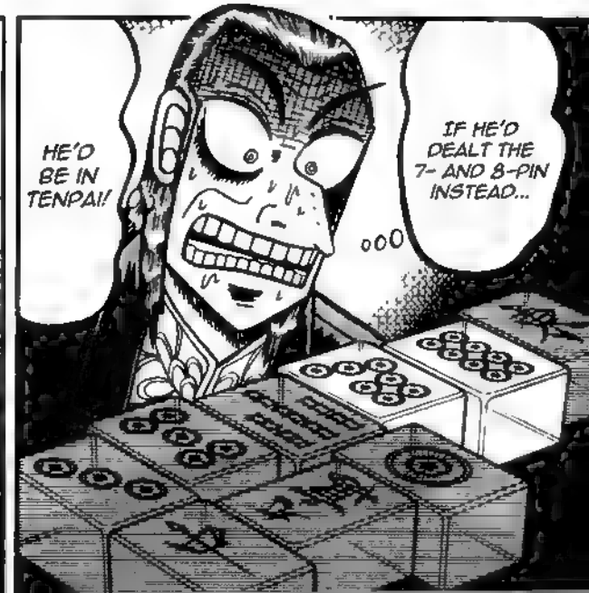

YOU SHOULD'VE GONE FOR THE HON ITSU!!

A REAL POSSI-BILITY!!
THAT HAND WAS ALSO...


YOU ACCEPT THIS PITIFULLY CHEAP HAND?!
HUH ?!

AND YET...

ALL YOU'D HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT THE 100,000-POINT DIFFERENCE...
WHETHER HE'D COMPLETE IT OR NOT IS BESIDE THE POINT...
AND THE NATURAL PLAY WOULD BE OBVIOUS!


HE'D BE IN TENPAI!
IF HE'D DEALT THE 7- AND 8-PIN INSTEAD...

YOU'VE SABO-TAGED YOUR-SELF...!

YOU'VE GONE AND THROWN IT INTO THE GUTTER...!

YOU HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE A GIANT STEP CLOSER TO ME, AND YET...

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR WAY...?

YOU DIDN'T CON-SIDER IT!!

AND DOING NOTHING ELSE...

BUT IN FOCUSING ON WINNING QUICKLY...

YOU WANT TO WIN AND WIN...!

YOU'VE LOST SIGHT OF IT!

ナデラッ…

YES!

OF ANOTHER VERY IM-PORTANT MATTER!

EVEN WITH THAT, YOU STILL...

HOW-EVER...

YOU'VE SECURED ANOTHER 3900 FOR YOURSELF!

TO BE SURE, WITH THAT WIN, JUST NOW...

HAVE LOST SOMETHING VERY IM-PORTANT!

ONE OF YOUR CRUCIAL REMAINING ROUNDS!

EH-HEH-HEH-HEH ...!!

KHEH-HEH-HEH...

ARE THE 4 ROUNDS IN THE SOUTH SET, ALONE!

ALL THAT REMAIN...

WON-DERFUL!

I'LL EASILY ENDURE!

THOSE TINY SHIFTS IN POINTS WON'T MEAN ANY-THING!

OR EVEN UP TO 5200...

WITH JUST 2000, OR 4000...

NO MATTER HOW MANY CHEAP HANDS YOU GET...

I WELCOME THIS, OPENLY!

IF THE ROUNDS KEEP CLEARING AWAY, LIKE THIS!

THE REST WILL BE EASY!

YOU WON'T MAKE SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH ON ME!

WITH ANY HANDS UP TO 5200 POINTS...

AH...

OHGI-SAN... PUT THIS ON THE SIDE TABLE.

.....

RIGHT ...

IT'S NO USE ...!

WHAT WE NEED...

RIGHT NOW...

IF HE CONTINUES TO ACCEPT THESE HANDS, IT'S USELESS!

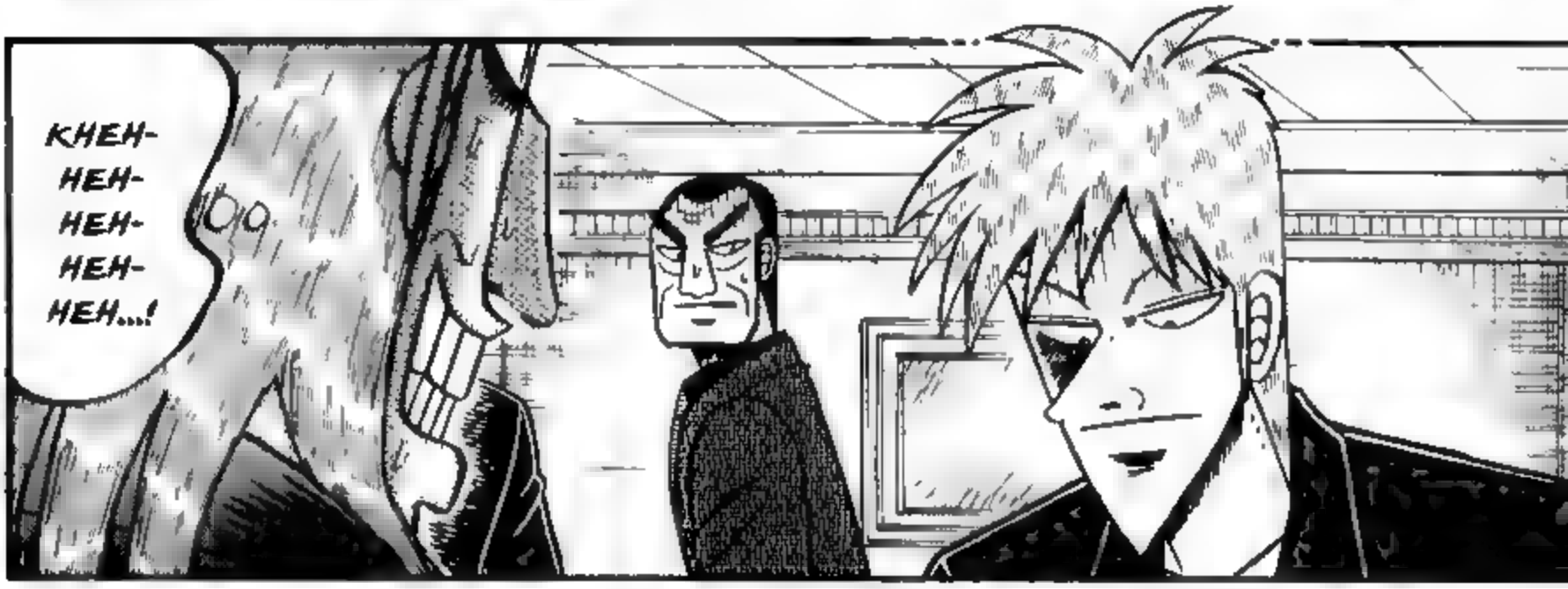
IF THESE PUNY WINS KEEP CONTINUING...

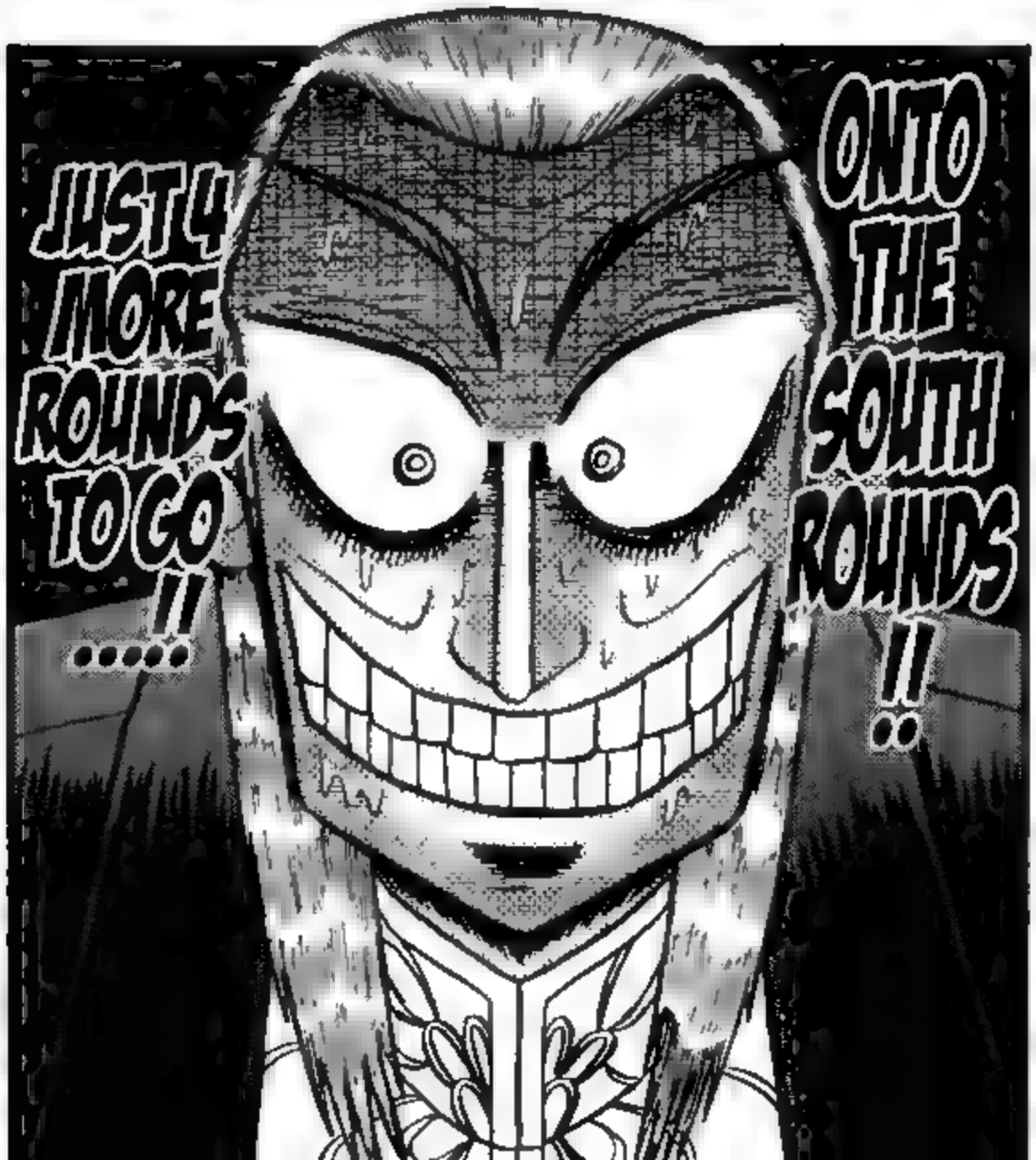
.....

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?!

ARE WINS THAT WILL CAUSE AN IMPACT!

AKAGI !!


KHEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH-
HEH...!


JUST 4 MORE ROUNDS TO GO !! ....
ONTO THE SOUTH ROUNDS !!

NOW...

ゴト…

ゴト…

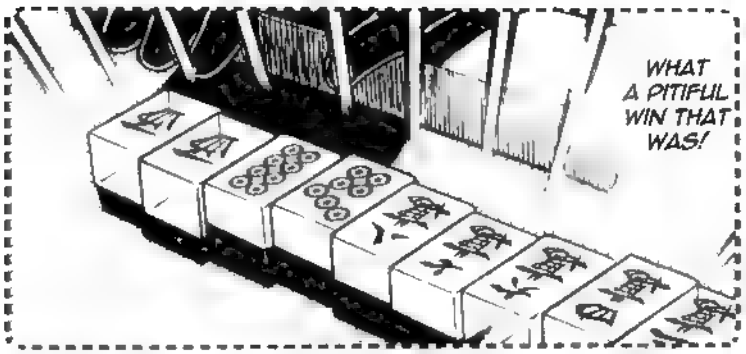
CHAPTER 174 - STIMULATION

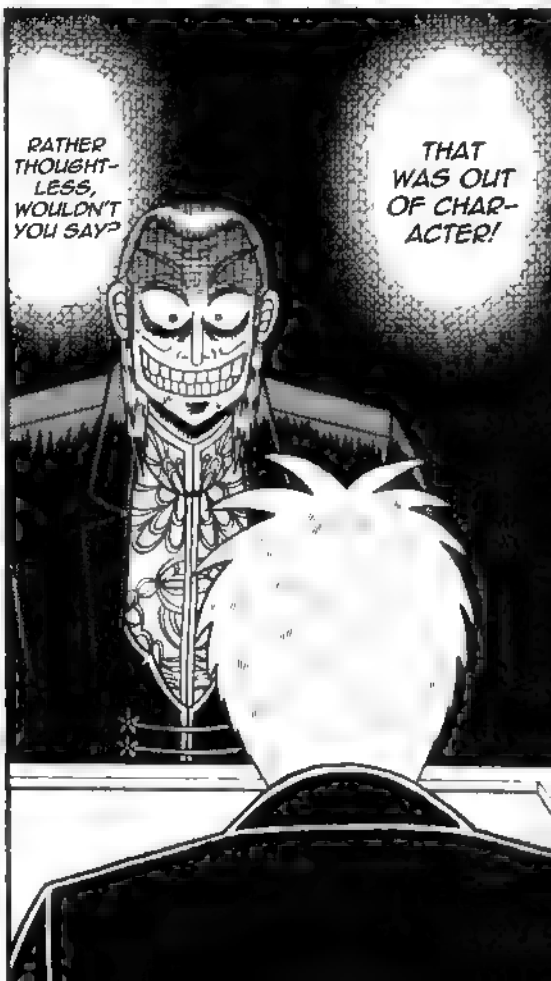
第174話 呼び水

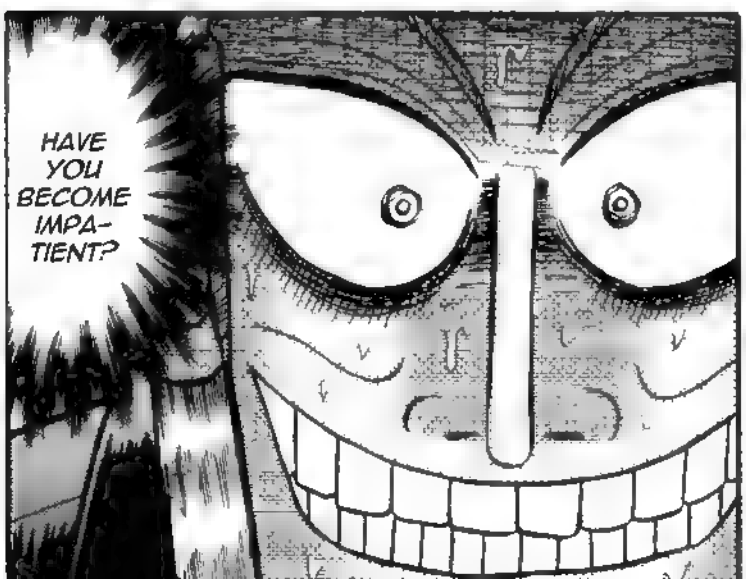
ゴト…

THAT CHEAP WIN, JUST NOW...
WAS A TREMEN-DOUS FAVOR!

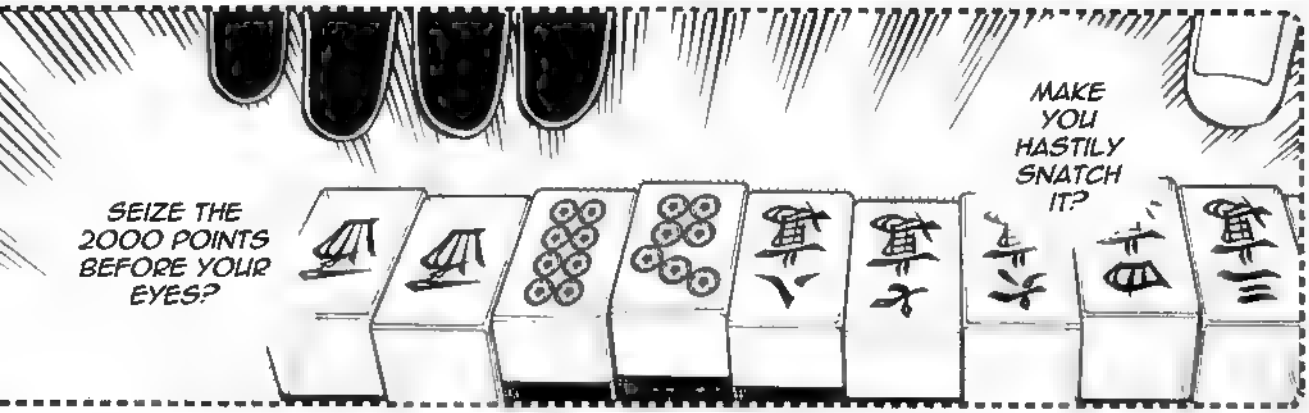
HMMMMM...?
WHAT'S WRONG...?


WHAT A PITIFUL WIN THAT WAS!

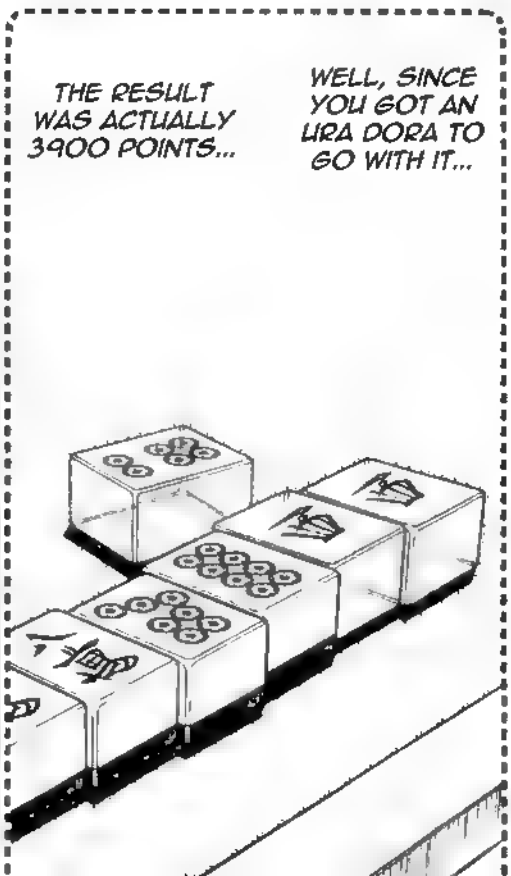

THAT WAS OUT OF CHAR-ACTER!
RATHER THOUGHT-LESS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

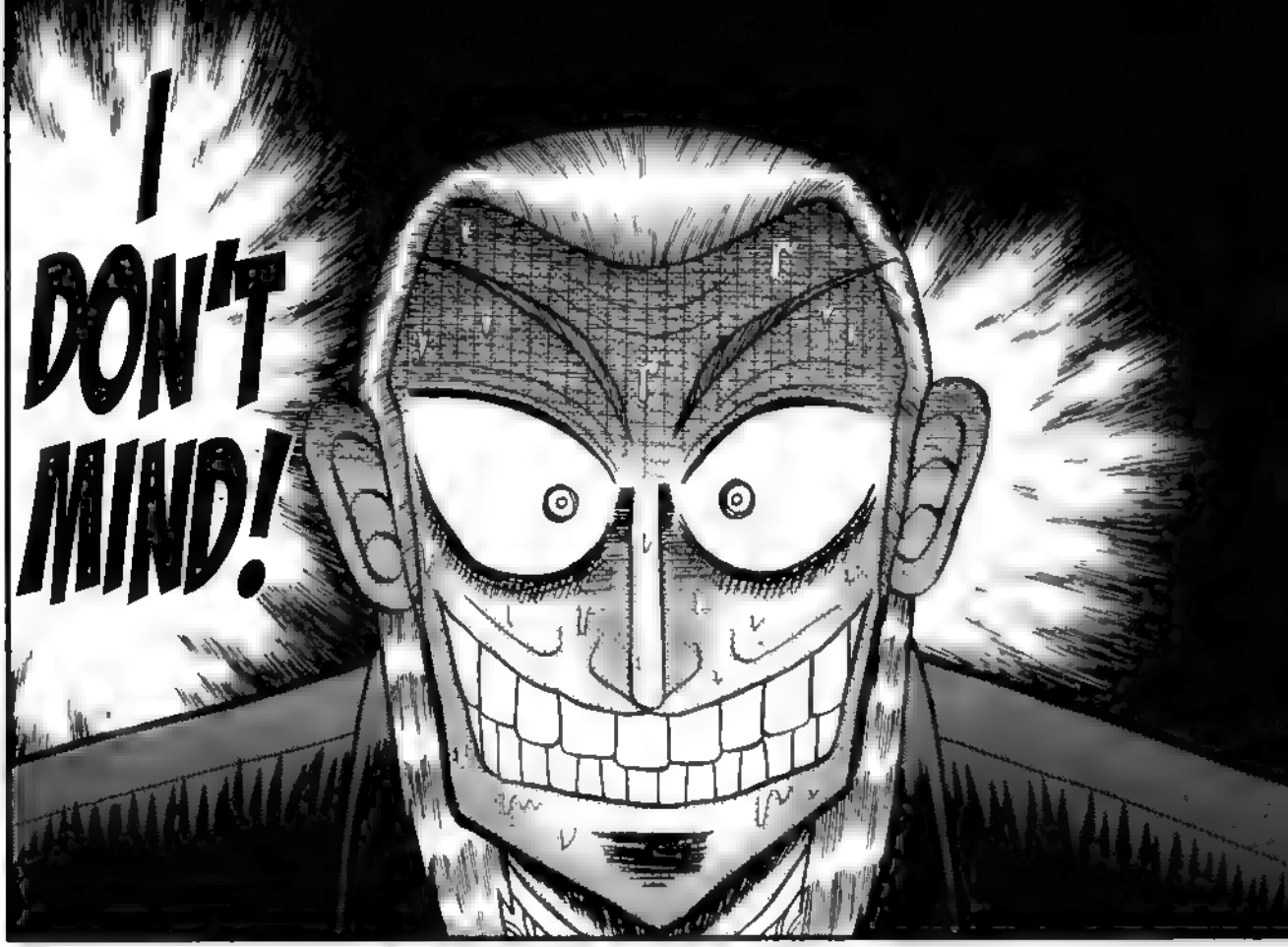

HAVE YOU BECOME IMPA-TIENT?

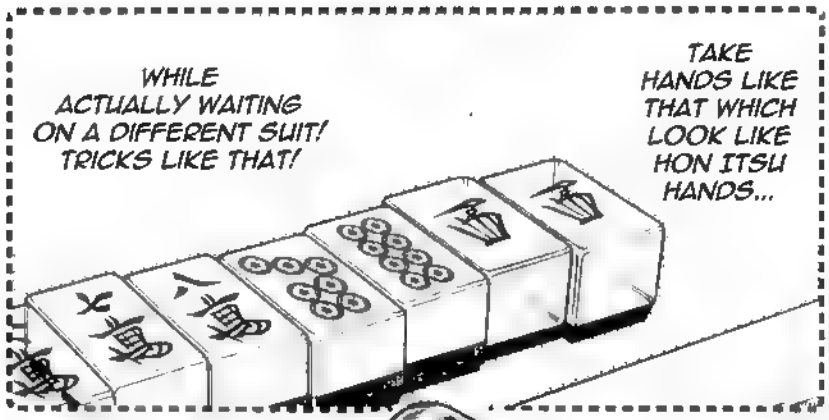
AND IN SO DOING...
DID IT MAKE YOU DISCARD RATIONALITY...
INSTANTLY MAKE YOU ANXIOUS?
DID SEEING THIS LARGE GAP BETWEEN US...


SEIZE THE 2000 POINTS BEFORE YOUR EYES?
MAKE YOU HASTILY SNATCH IT?

A CHEAP HAND IS A CHEAP HAND!
BUT, WELL, EITHER WAY... THERE'S NO REAL DIFFERENCE!

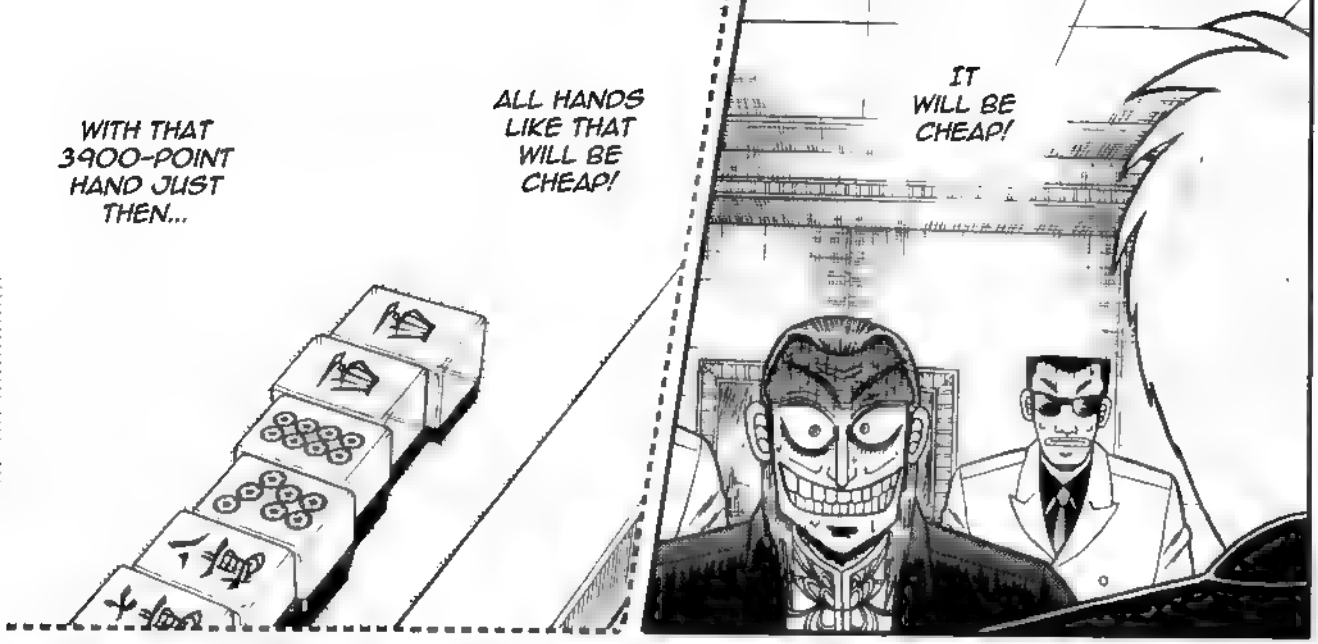

THE RESULT WAS ACTUALLY 3900 POINTS...
WELL, SINCE YOU GOT AN URA DORA TO GO WITH IT...


I DON'T MIND!


WHILE ACTUALLY WAITING ON A DIFFERENT SUIT! TRICKS LIKE THAT!
TAKE HANDS LIKE THAT WHICH LOOK LIKE HON ITSU HANDS...

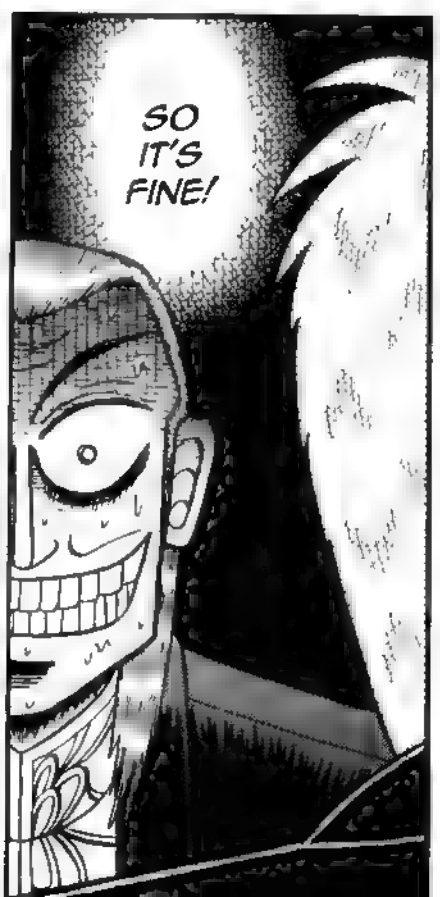
FINE BY ME! PLEASE, GO RIGHT AHEAD!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

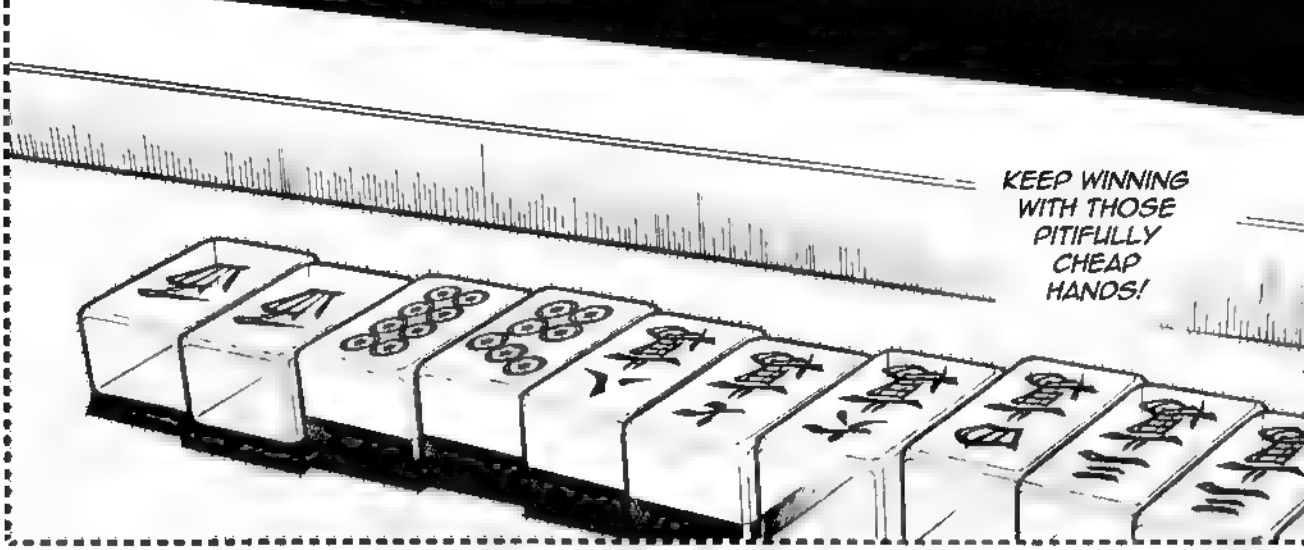
PLEASE, DO IT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
I DON'T MIND AT ALL, AKAGI!

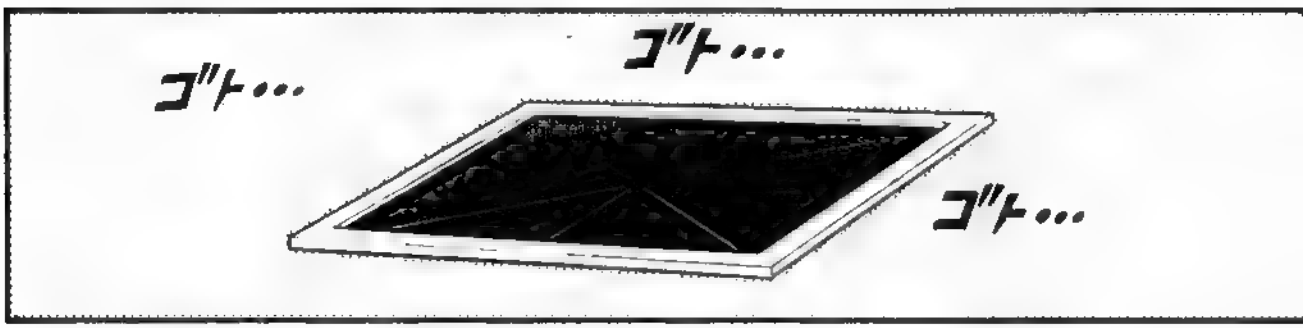

WITH THAT 3900-POINT HAND JUST THEN...
ALL HANDS LIKE THAT WILL BE CHEAP!
IT WILL BE CHEAP!

THAT WOULD STILL LEAVE A TREMENDOUS 82,400-POINT LEAD!
EVEN IF IT HAD BEEN 7800 INSTEAD...

FEEL FREE!
NO PROBLEM AT ALL!
NOT A PROBLEM!
CONTINUE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!


SO IT'S FINE!


KEEP WINNING WITH THOSE PITIFULLY CHEAP HANDS!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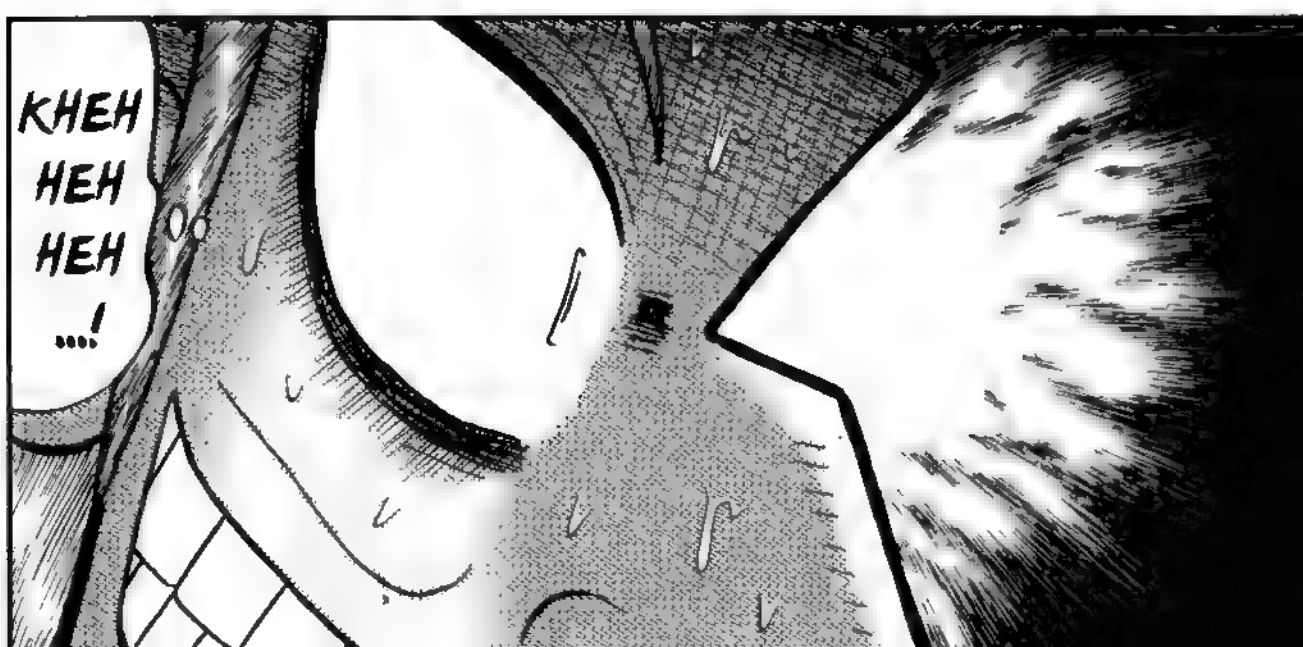
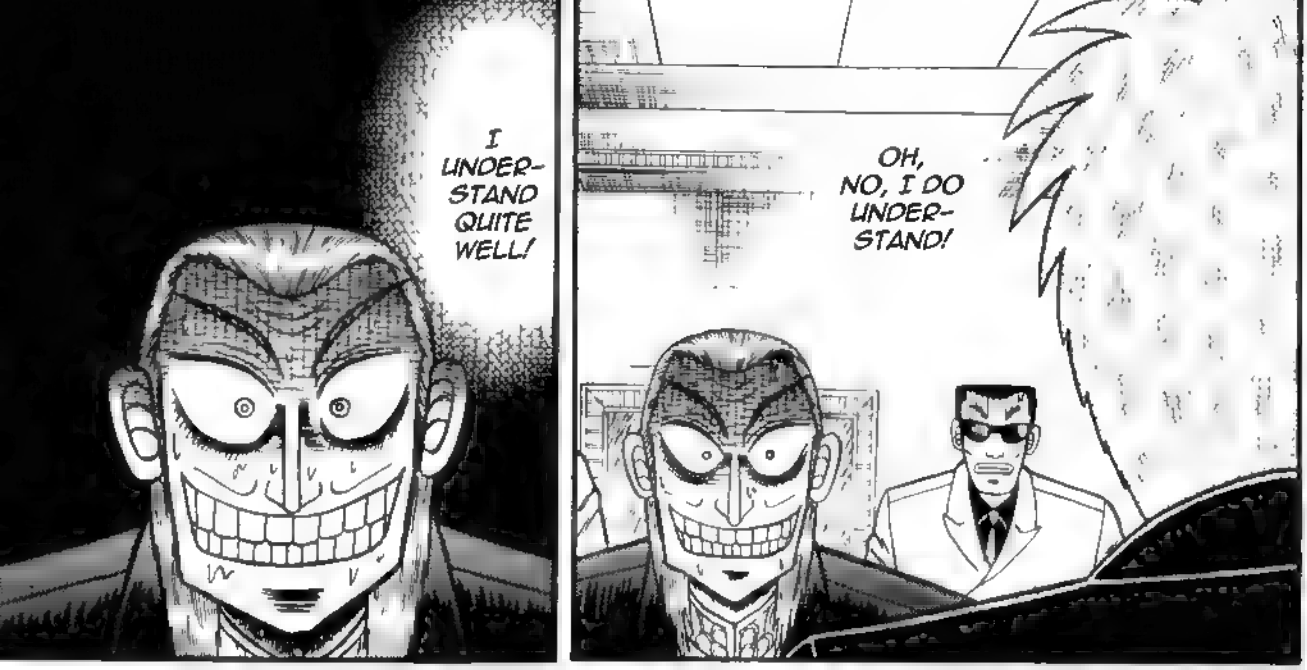
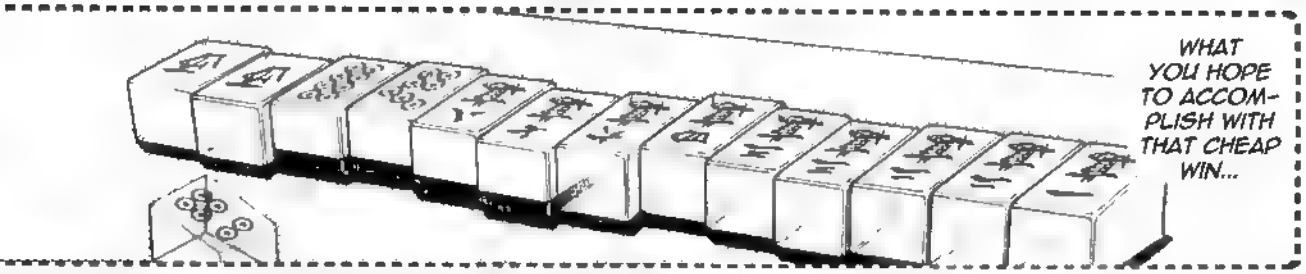
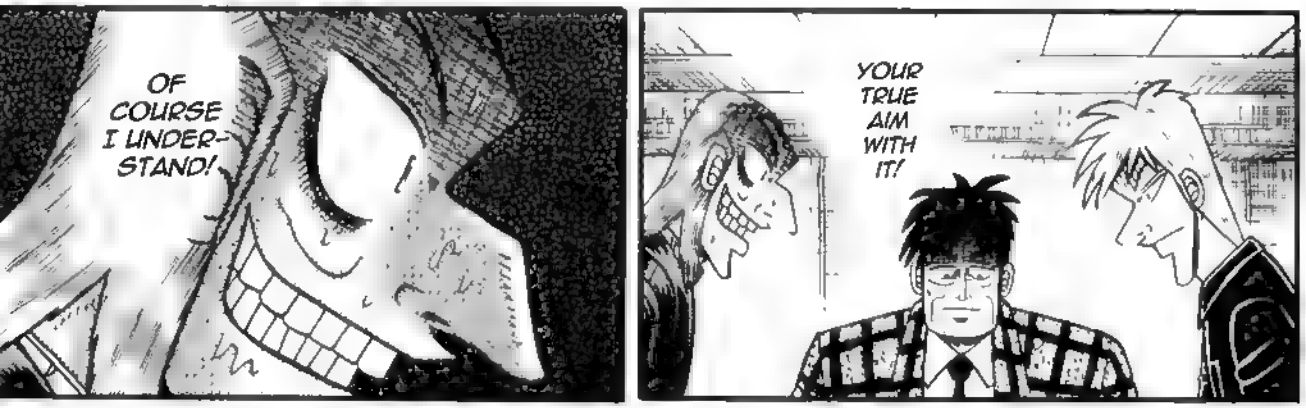

KHEH HEH HEH …!


I UNDER-STAND QUITE WELL!
OH, NO, I DO UNDER-STAND!


WHAT YOU HOPE TO ACCOM-PLISH WITH THAT CHEAP WIN...


OF COURSE I UNDER-STAND!
YOUR TRUE AIM WITH IT!

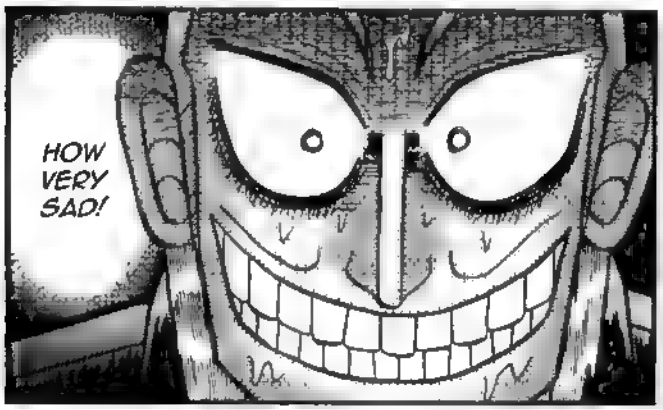
YOUR GOAL WASN'T TO SECURE POINTS...
IN THE EAST 4TH ROUND, JUST NOW...
YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF GIVING UP... I KNOW THAT MUCH!
DON'T THINK I'M OBLIVIOUS!
ｺﾞｰﾄ…

BUT RATHER, TO SEIZE THE FLOW!
ゴト…
ゴト…
IN ORDER TO GO INTO THIS SOUTH 1ST ROUND…

THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE AFTER!
WITH THE BEST FLOW YOU COULD!
YOUR VERY LAST DEALER TURN...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT...?
INTO AN EXPLOSION!
YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE THIS FINAL DEALER TURN OF YOURS...
IN ORDER TO COME BACK AGAINST THAT...
FUNDAMENTALLY, THIS IS A POINT DIFFERENCE OF 40,000... 100,000 POINTS!
A BONFIRE OF CONTINUED HONBA!

EVEN IF IT'S A SMALL ONE...
HE'S SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES THE SIMPLE ACT OF COMPLETING A HAND WILL BRING LUCK TO HIS SIDE!
HE MADE SURE TO WIN AT LEAST SOMETHING!
AND FOR THAT REASON...

WILL STIMULATE THE FLOW TO RETURN TO HIM!
SIMPLY COMPLETING ANY KIND OF HAND...

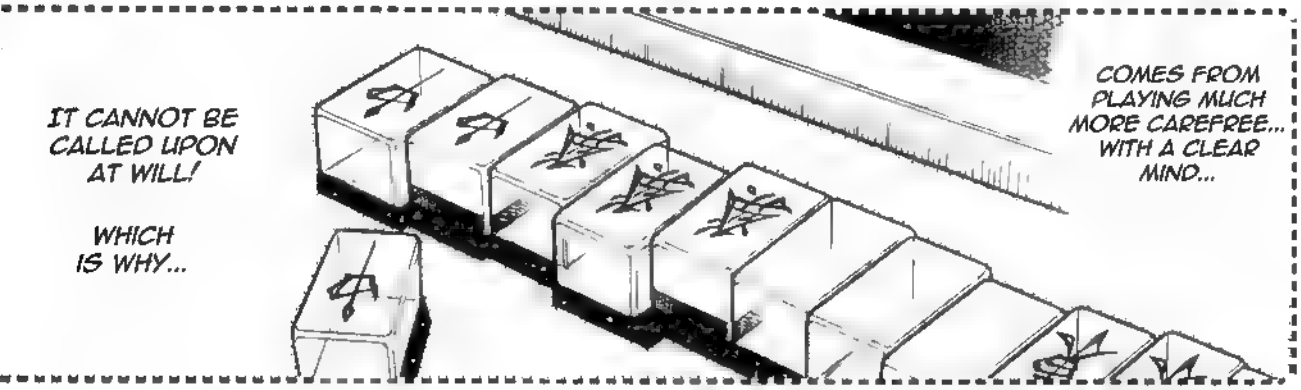

HOW VERY SAD!

KHEH-HEH-HEH...

THAT KIND OF HALF-HEARTED WIN...
IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO REGAIN YOUR DOMINANCE...

THAT PARLOR TRICK WILL DO YOU NOTHING!
LUCK ISN'T THAT EASY TO CONQUER!

OF ALL ENCOMPASSING, DESTRUCTIVE POWER...
AN EXPLOSION...
MONSTROUS LUCK...
CAN ONLY SERVE TO REDUCE YOUR MOMENTUM!!


IT CANNOT BE CALLED UPON AT WILL!
WHICH IS WHY...
COMES FROM PLAYING MUCH MORE CAREFREE... WITH A CLEAR MIND...

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT TRICK WILL GAIN YOU ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
YOU WILL NOT GET IT!
THAT PLAYING STYLE IS OF NO USE TO YOU!
IT'S NO USE!

THAT THIN GLIMMER OF HOPE YOU HAD ...!

IT HAS BEEN BLOWN AWAY!

THE EXACT OPPO-SITE!

IN FACT, IT'S THE OPPO-SITE!

THIS SOUTH 1ST ROUND WILL HAVE NO SUCH EXPLOSION!

THAT DISTANT DREAM OF A STRAT-EGY...

MAKING A COMEBACK THROUGH HONBA AFTER HONBA...

ゴト...

YES...

WILL BE SNUFFED OUT!

ゴ"...

ゴ"..

Yes...

RIGHT HERE AND NOW!!

I WILL SNUFF IT OUT, PERSON-ALLY!

If that's the kind of tremendous point difference he must overcome...

Has over 90,000 points in his way...

If Akagi ...

Anyone can see how true that is!

That is right.

If he can't do that, it's hopeless!

By utilizing Honba after Honba.

Then he must have an explosion during this South 1st Round, as dealer...

Everyone can see that, at this point!

It all comes down to his starting hand!

His last dealer turn...

This is the South 1st Round of Fate...

Truly...

But first...

He must retrieve the Dora Indicator!
The Dora is 8-Man!
And now...

The all-important first 14 tiles!!
His starting hand!
RGH ....!

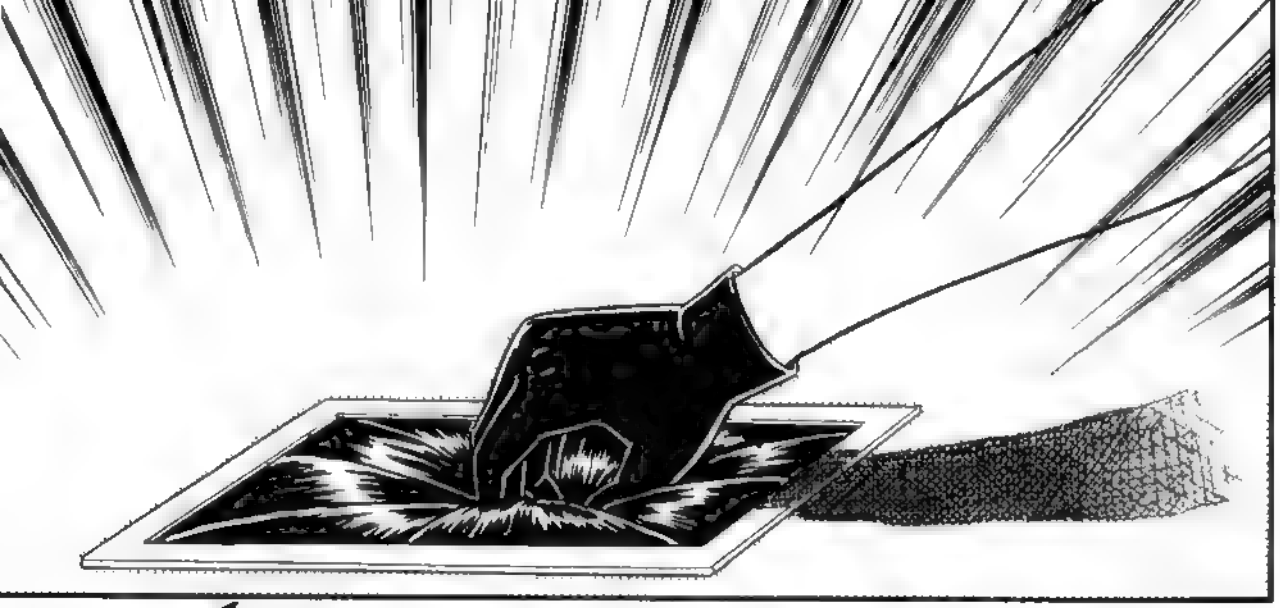
An uphill battle ...

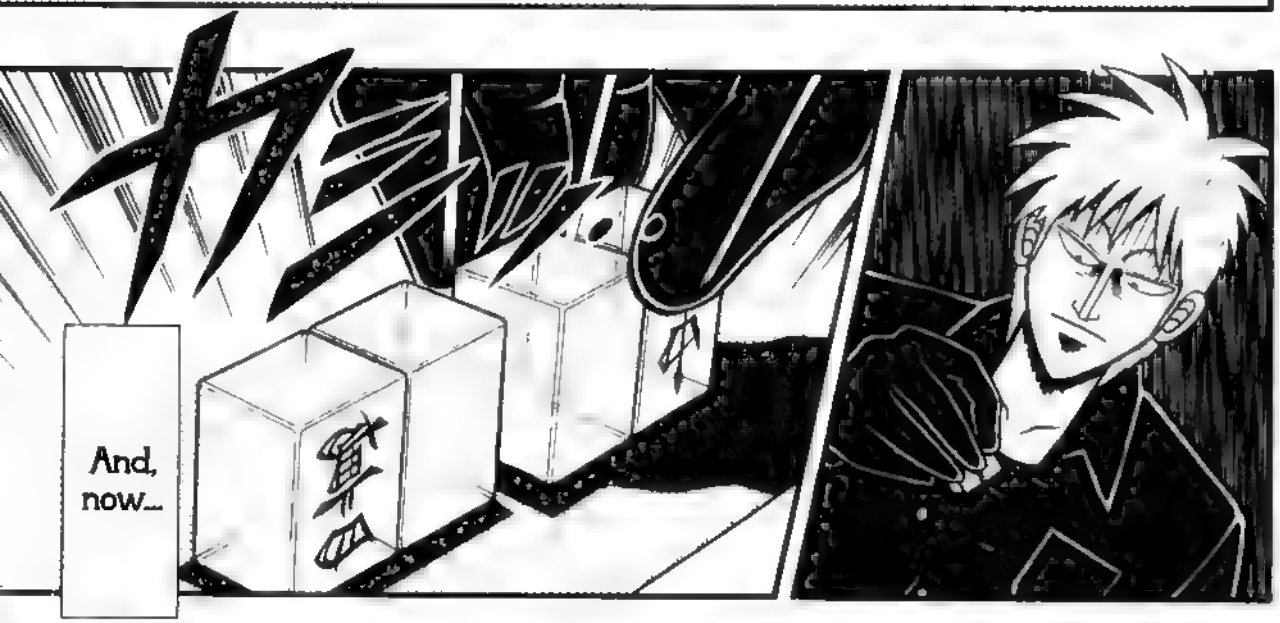
Thinking back, this 6th Session...
Was always going to be an uphill battle!
From Akagi's perspective...
With Washizu's monstrous luck...
That overwhelming amount of water...
A raging torrent of luck!
Even while it pushed back against his entire body...

HE ENDURED IT!!!
Very narrowly...
Taking it moment by moment...
Evading all the danger!
That...

An immense conges-tion of power!
Was what this 6th Session had become!
For most people, this raging torrent...
It was Agonizing, Distressing, and Mortifying!
Akagi ...
How-ever...
They would have drow-ned!
Would have long since washed them away!
the Genius who does not fear death...

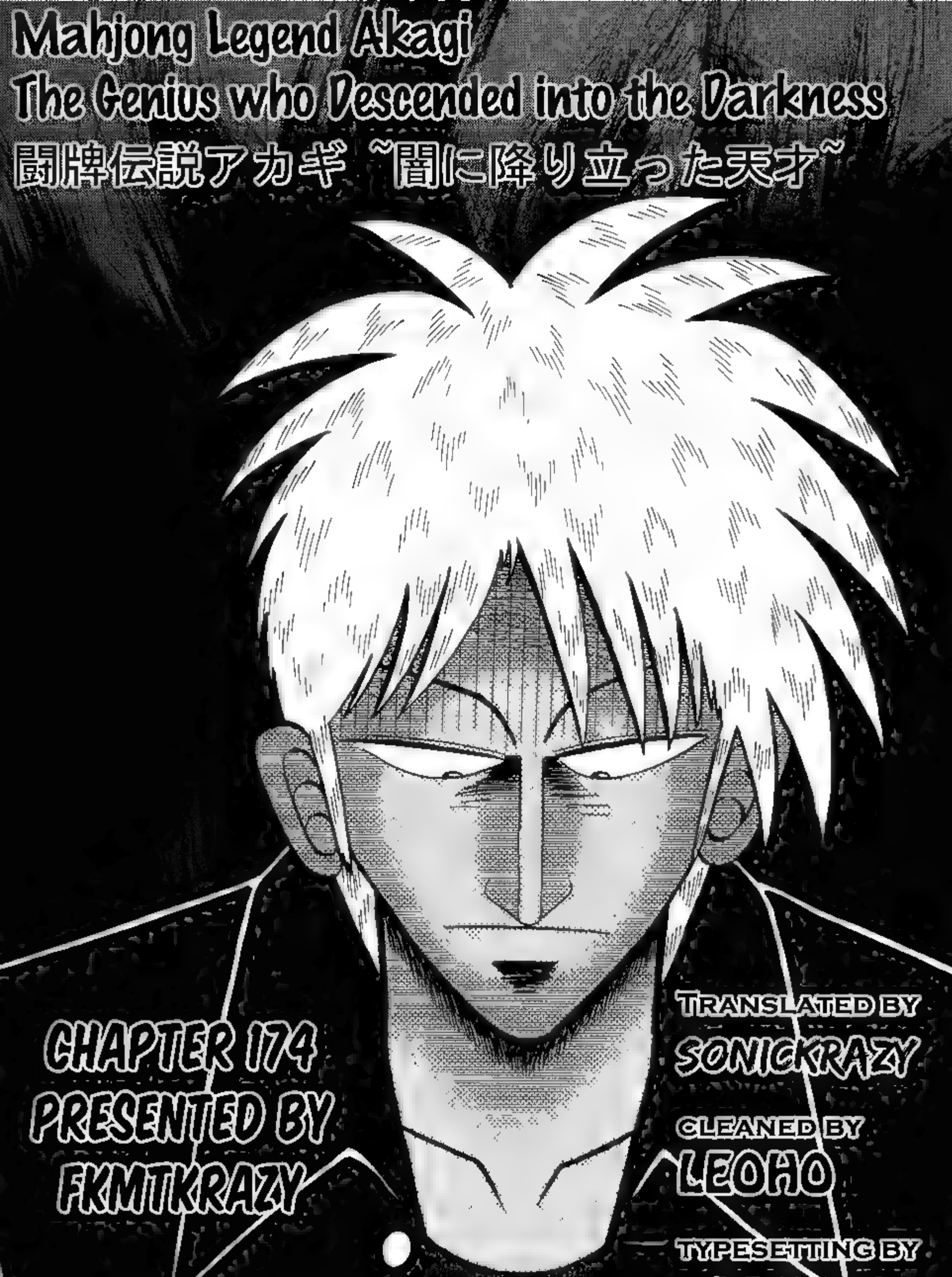
HE HAD ONLY JUST BARELY COME THIS FAR, INTACT!
HAD MADE IT OUT, ALIVE!!




ドゴォ!!
And, now...

That act of perseverance in the darkest of times...

Mahjong Legend Akagi
The Genius who Descended into the Darkness
闘牌伝説アカギ ~闇に降り立った天才~



CHAPTER 174
PRESENTED BY
FKMTKRAZY

TRANSLATED BY
SONICKRAZY

CLEANED BY
LEOHO

TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO

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Is finally ...

...BEING REWARDED! NOW, IN THIS SOUTH 1ST ROUND!!

HRGH...!

ざわ…

GRGH...!

PAIRS OF THE CHUN AND HAKU...

AND A SINGLE HATSU...!

ALL RIGHT...!!

DRAGON TILES

CHAPTER 175:

第175話 三元牌

COME ON!!

GOOD!!

GOOD! GOOD!!

OF THE HAKU, HATSU, AND CHUN!!

GET SOME MORE OF THEM ...!!

WE NEED IT ....!!

PLEASE ....!!

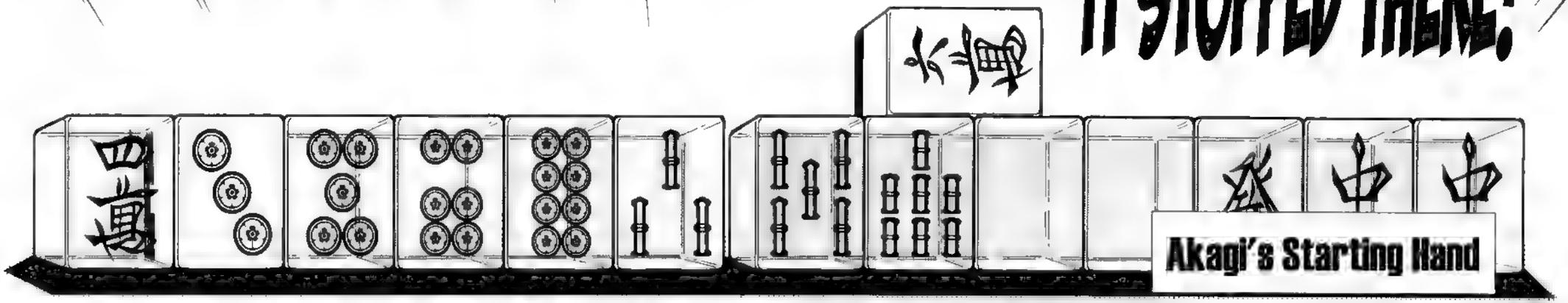
A DAI SAN GEN !!!

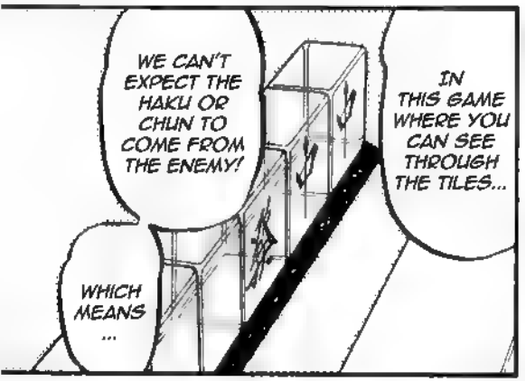
WE NEED THIS KIND OF HAND....!!

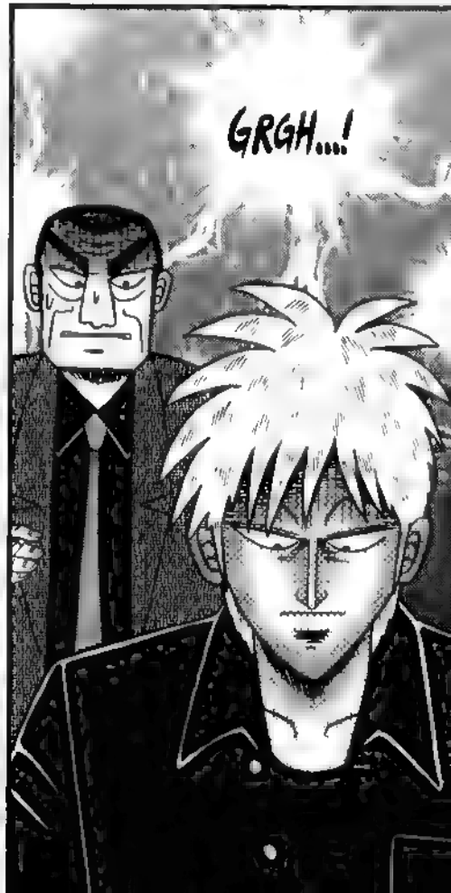
IT'S ALL HANGING IN THE BALANCE !....

AND THE MONEY...!
AND AKAGI'S LIFE!
MY ARM...
PLEASE!!
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!!
But...
PLEASE ...!
PLEASE ...!!
THIS UNHEARD-OF AMOUNT OF MONEY!!

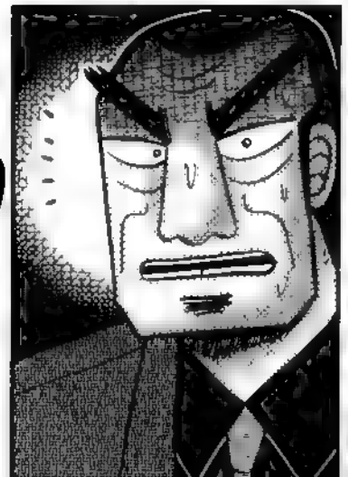
IT STOPPED THERE!







HUH...?



GRRRR...

GRRRR...

WHAA ...?

IS HE THIS SHOCKED AT AKAGI GETTING PAIRS OF CHUN AND HAKU...?

IT'S CHAN-GED ...!

WASHIZU'S EXPRES-SION...

WHAT'S THIS...?

HMM...?

AH-!!

AH-
HAHH-
HHH!!

DREW THE CHUN AND HAKU!!

YAS-UOKA ...

HE HAS THEM!!

ARE AS GOOD AS CLOSED TRIPLETS, ALREADY!

THEN, THESE HAKUS AND CHUNS...

YES!!

YES!!

HE CAN CALL ON THEM, WHEN-EVER HE LIKES!

ALL THAT'S LEFT...

SO, THAT SAID...

.....

IS THAT SINGLE HATSU!
Akagi's Hand
Washizu's Hand
Suzuki's Hand
チラ…
ALL RIGHT ...!
THE SHAPE OF THE REST OF HIS HAND SHOULD BE JUST FINE!
AS HE CAN GRAB ANOTHER HATSU OR TWO...
SO LONG...
……
チラ…
WE CAN REALLY GET A YAKUMAN!!
WE CAN DO IT!

BOTH OF THEIR HANDS ARE BAD!

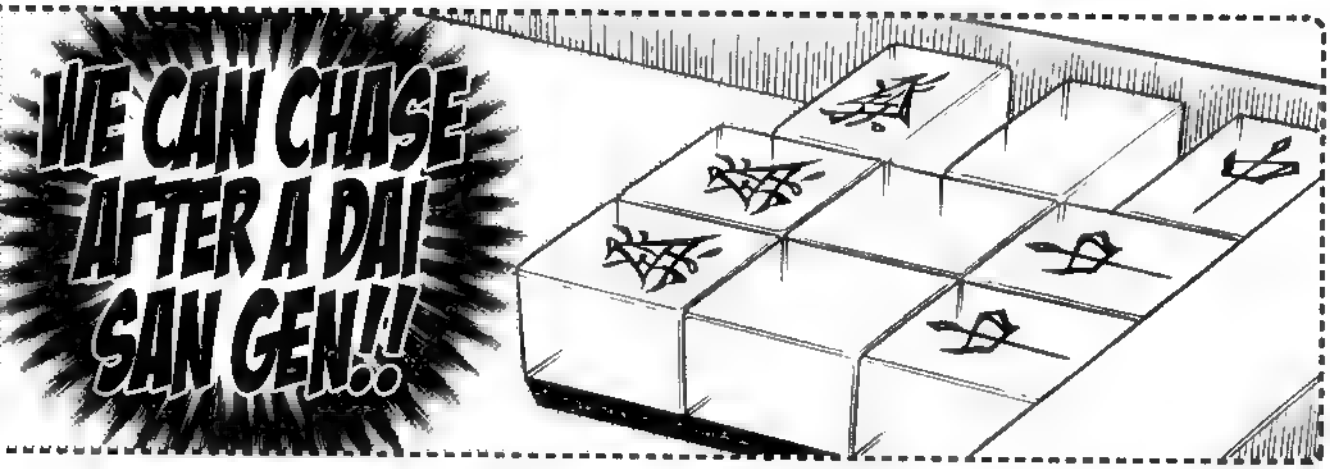
GREAT!

GREAT! THIS IS JUST GREAT!!

ALL WE NEED IS THE HATSU!

WE CAN GET THERE!

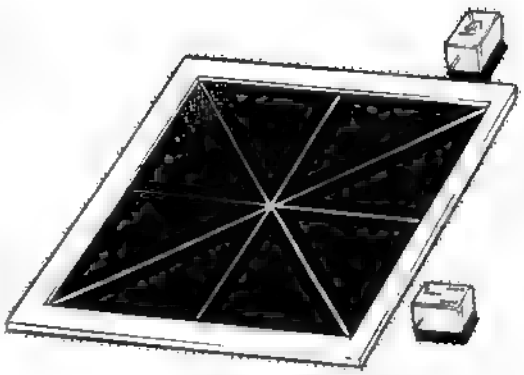
WE'LL BE GOLDEN!
SO LONG AS WE GET THE HATSU...


WE CAN CHASE AFTER A DAI SAN GEN!!

AKAGI!!
IT'S ON ITS WAY! THIS INCREDIBLE HAND IS NEARLY HERE!!
He was delighted!
WITH A WAIT SOMEWHERE IN THE RANGE OF PINZU...!

Ohgi had thought this:

And in that tremendous excitement...



It was a bit early, but he was earnestly delighted!

And its final wait would likely be around pinzu!

The Key to this hand was the Hatsu...

This read...

Was something similar to Akagi's, as well!

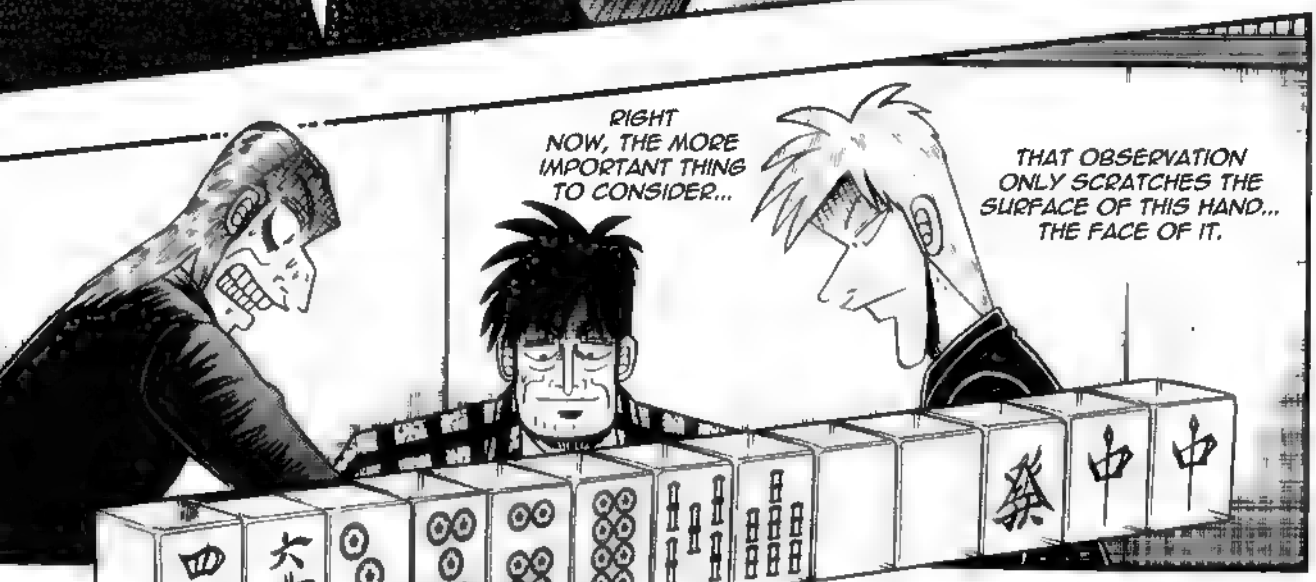
HOW-EVER...

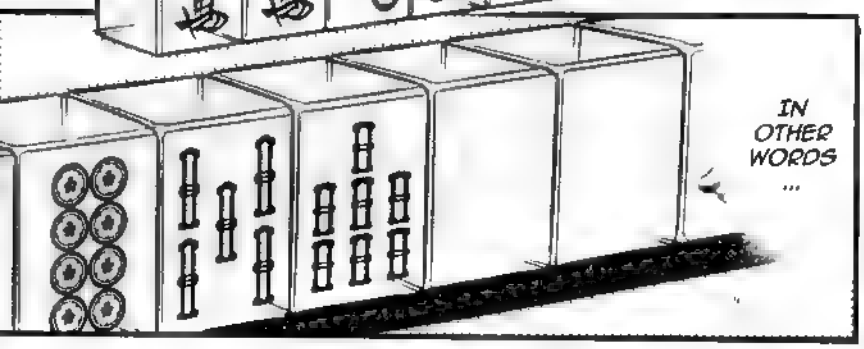
AND PINZU IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT ...

THE HATSU WILL BE KEY.

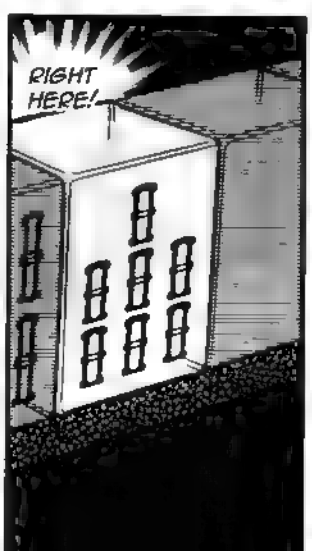
FOR THIS HAND...

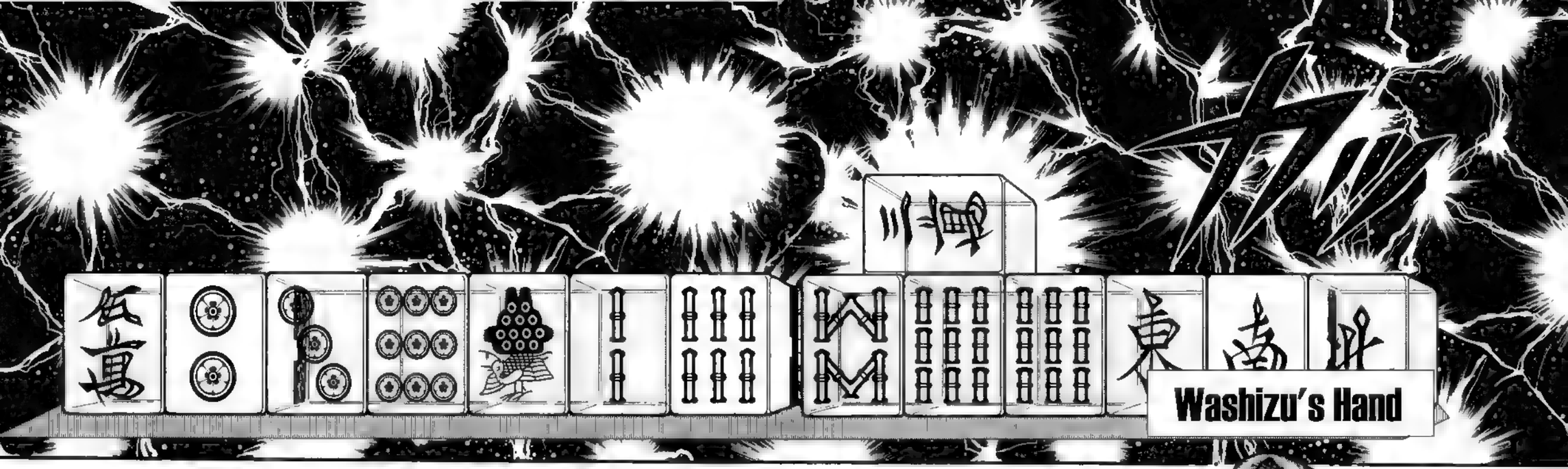
.....


RIGHT NOW, THE MORE IMPORTANT THING TO CONSIDER...
THAT OBSERVATION ONLY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE OF THIS HAND... THE FACE OF IT.

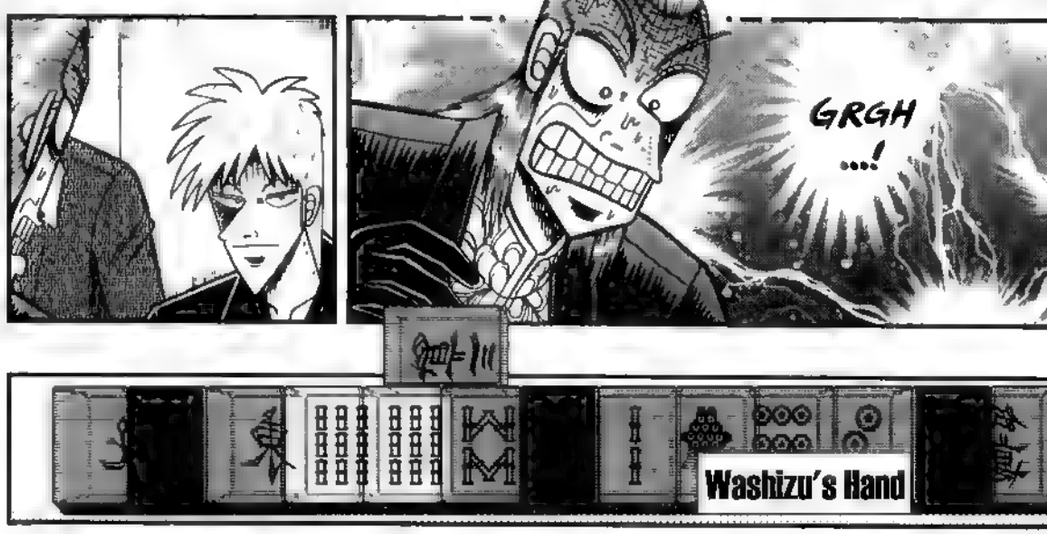

IN OTHER WORDS ...

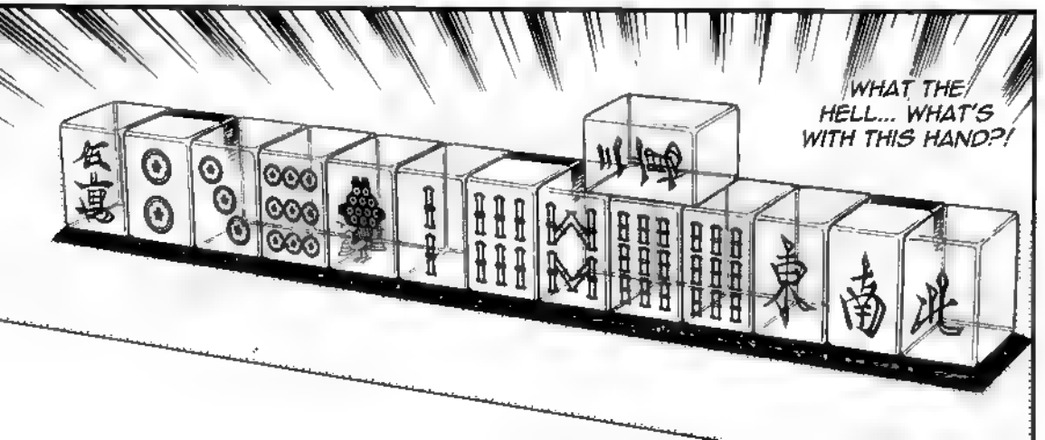
IS NOT THE FACE!.. BUT THE UNDER-SIDE!

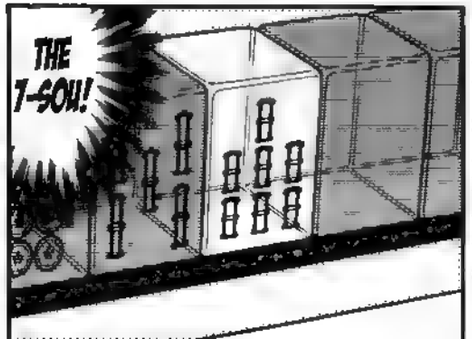

RIGHT HERE!


Washizu's Hand

GR GH ....
GRRR GHHHH ....!!


GRGH ...!
Washizu's Hand


WHAT THE HELL... WHAT'S WITH THIS HAND?!


THE 1-SOU!

IT'S HERE!

IMPOSSIBLE!!

WHILE AKAGI'S WISHY-WASHY PLAYING STYLE...

ONLY THIS FAR ALONG...

WHY... IS MY HAND...

HAS BROUGHT HIM THAT KIND OF HAND?!

Akagi's Hand

HM- HMM- HMM...

KGH ...!

WASH-IZU...

PRIDEFUL AS EVER, ARE WE...

YOUR PRIDE IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY WEAK POINT!

THAT'S YOUR WEAK POINT!

YOU NEVER REFLECT!

Ooo

IS THAT IT MAKES YOU UNABLE TO REFLECT ON YOUR PAST ACTIONS CRITICALLY!

BUT THE DOWNSIDE OF THE TRAIT THAT'S AL-LOWED YOU TO LIVE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE...

YOU'RE ALWAYS GIVING YOURSELF POSITIVE AFFIRMA-TIONS...

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SEE IT!

HM-HMM-HMM...

GRGH ...!

THE PRIDEFUL DEMONS...

CAN'T SEE IT!

AND THE KINGS OF OUR WORLD

THEY'RE BLINDED...

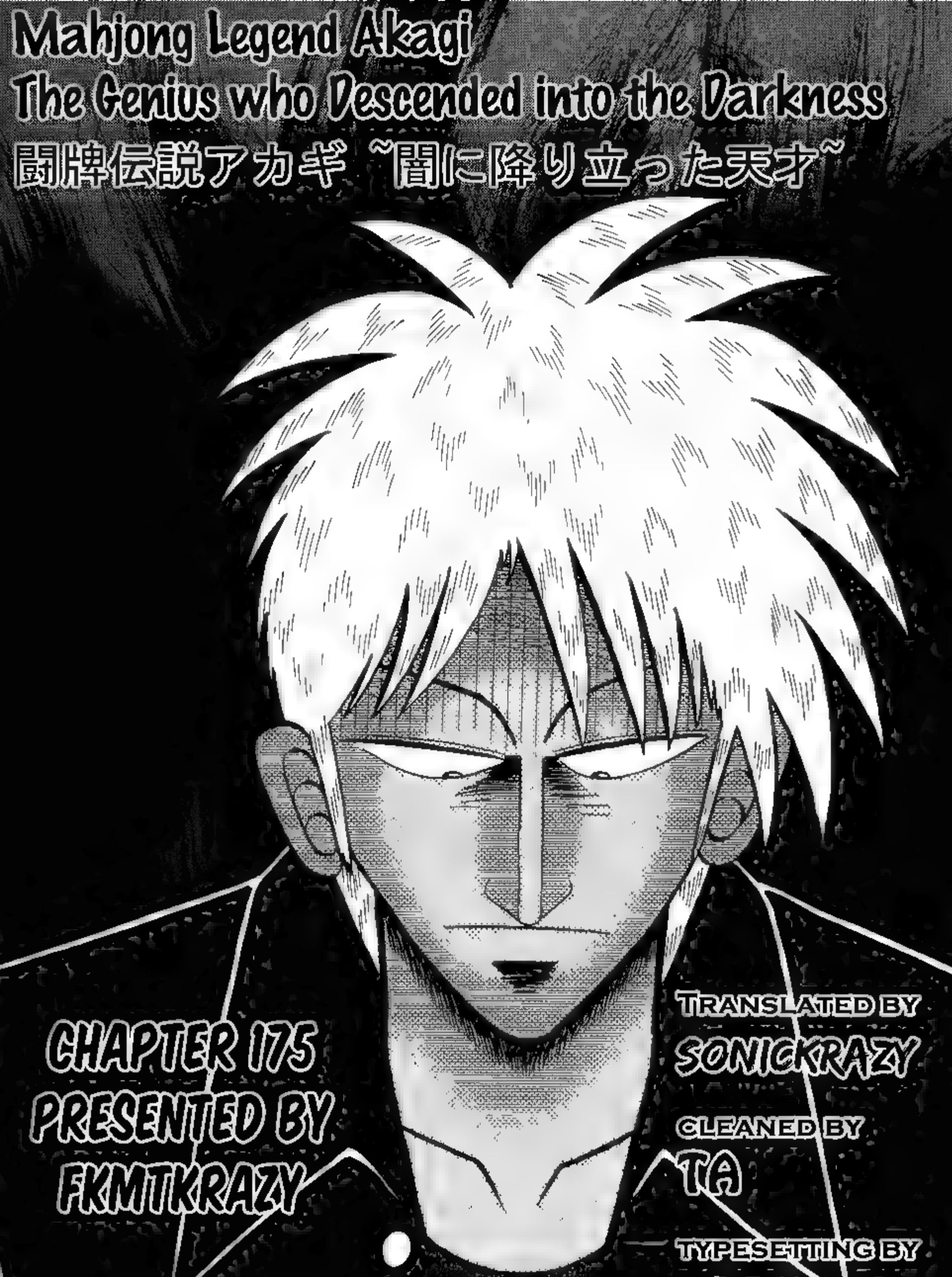
AND THEY CAN'T UNDER-STAND!

THEY CAN'T OBSERVE THEIR OWN MISTAKES!

WAS-HIZU...

TO THE REALITY AROUND THEM!

Mahjong Legend Akagi
The Genius who Descended into the Darkness
闘牌伝説アカギ ~闇に降り立った天才~



CHAPTER 175
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CLEANED BY
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TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO

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DID YOU THINK YOU WERE WINNING THIS RACE BY A MILE?

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, WASHIZU..

THE TRUTH IS EVER SO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT!

YOU'RE WRONG!

I'VE GOT A WORLD OF SURPRISES WAITING FOR YOU!

HM-
HMM-
HMM...

THAT'S RIGHT!

CHAPTER 176:

IDEAL FLOW

第176話 本流

ALL OF YOU HAVE YET TO NOTICE THE UNDERGROUND ROUTE...
THAT THIS RULESET, WASHIZU MAHJONG, OFFERS!
WELL...
THERE'S AN UNDER-GROUND ROUTE!

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND, IN TIME.

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER.

THE TIME TO LET YOU IN ON IT HASN'T YET ARRIVED...

.....

Ooo

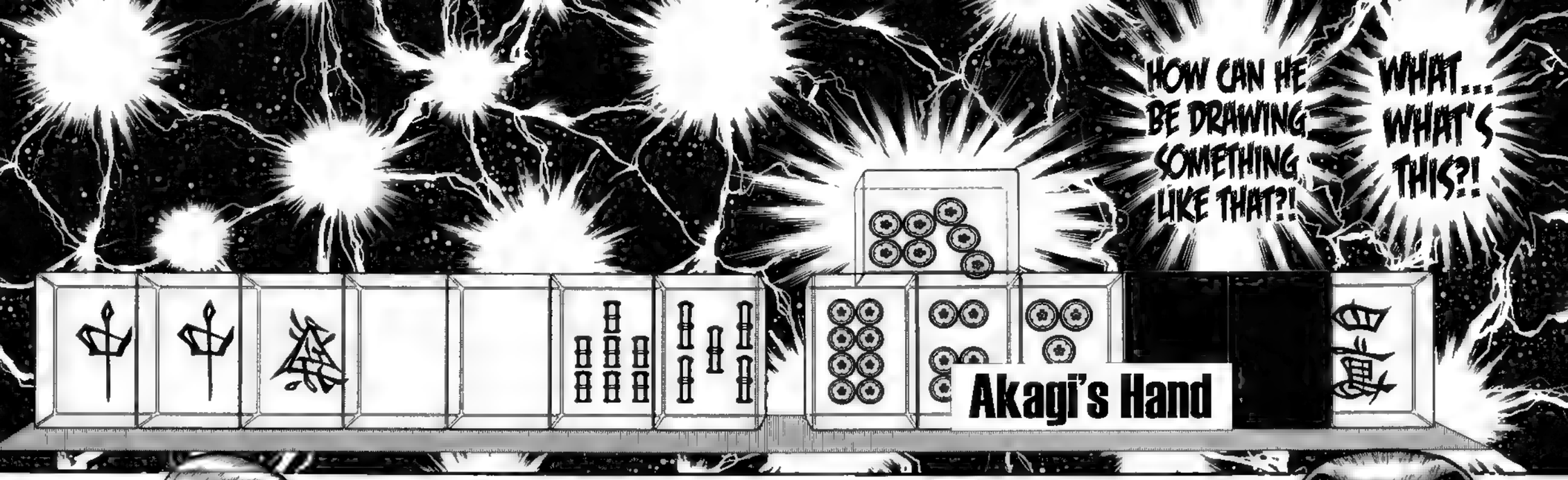
IN JUST A LITTLE BIT, ALL WILL BE MADE CLEAR.

THIS BLOODSTAINED BATTLE, WILL BE REVEALED TO ALL!

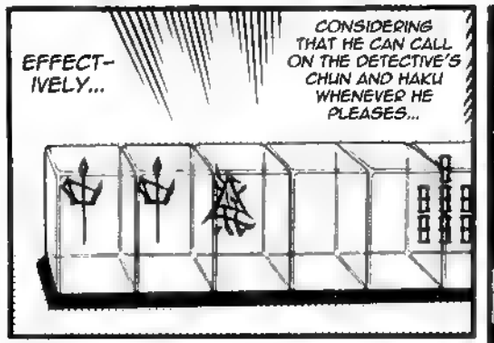
OF THIS FIGHT TO THE DEATH ...

THE SUDDEN DEATH ASPECT ...

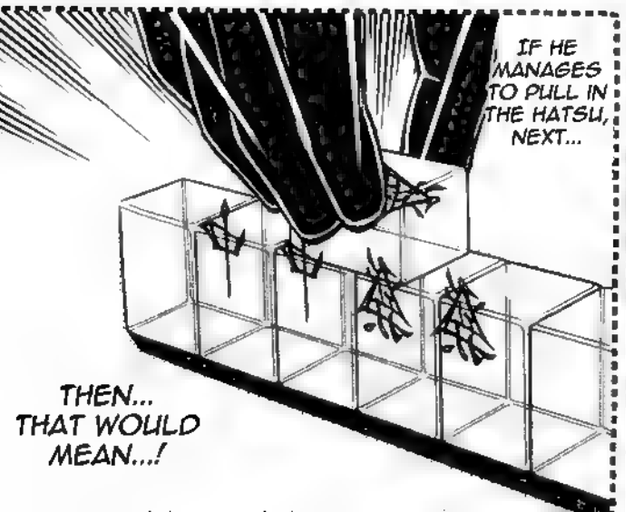
GR GH ...!

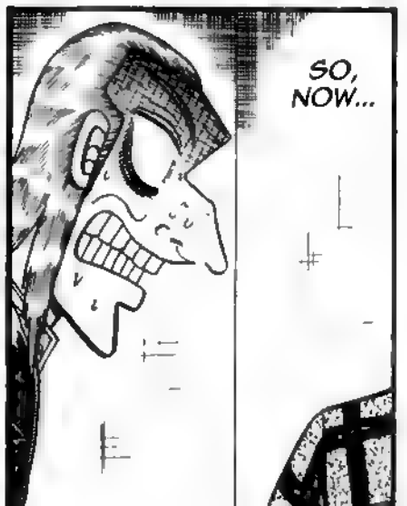

HOW CAN HE BE DRAWING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
WHAT... WHAT'S THIS?!
Akagi's Hand

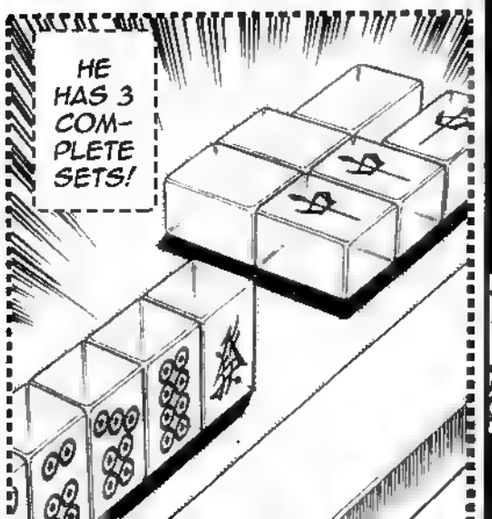
ALREADY!
HE'S JUST ONE AWAY FROM TENPAI!


EFFECT-IVELY...
CONSIDERING THAT HE CAN CALL ON THE DETECTIVE'S CHUN AND HAKU WHENEVER HE PLEASES...

NOW THAT HE'S GOTTEN A SET, RIGHT THERE...


IF HE MANAGES TO PULL IN THE HATSU, NEXT...
THEN... THAT WOULD MEAN...!


SO, NOW...


HE HAS 3 COM-PLETE SETS!

GGH ...!!

THKS IS ASININE!!

HE SLICED OFF HIS OWN HON ITSU TENPAI JUST LAST ROUND...

AND MADE IT STOP AT A RIICHI, PINFU, 1-DORA HAND!!

DIDN'T HE JUST SABOTAGE HIMSELF?!

HE GAINED NO MOMENTUM!

HE MERELY TOOK THE ROAD OF LEAST RESISTANCE...

HE BLOCKED OFF HIS OWN FLOW!!

HE HURT HIMSELF!!

Yes...

HOW CAN HE DO ALL THAT AND STILL...?!

SO HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?!

Based on the win in the previous round!

Akagi's playing style would certainly appear to be that way...

Certainly, viewing it from Washizu's perspective...

How-ever...

.....

.....

From Akagi's perspective, it was entirely different.

That flexible playing style...

Right now...

If the first place player has a large lead and it's the final round...

As an example in normal mahjong ...

And they are intending to run away with their lead...

Is exactly what he wants!

Can that really be called getting lucky?

If they got a starting hand very close to Chin Itsu in that situation...

Most likely...

In such a spot as that...

There are few people who would think that to be the case.

An ideal hand for an open tanyao!

This kind of hand would be much more desirable...

Such a hand is what you hope for when running away with your lead.

What you would need in that spot would be a quick hand!

A closed triplet of a Fanpai tile!

Or otherwise...

In other words...

Can be ideal for you!

Depending on what situation you're in, different kinds of hands...

You have no need for a high-scoring hand!

When running away with your first place position...

And to follow that mode of thinking...

The reason being...

Was ideal in his situa-tion!

The hand that Akagi won with last round...

What he will need to over-come that...

Is that Akagi is now in his final death struggle with an oppressive lead standing in his way.

It stands to reason that hands that only appear to be Hon Itsu hands...

In which case...

Are precisely what he wants, right now!

The hand that emerged in that round!

Direct hits on Washizu himself!

Is direct hits!

From there...

Were, first, the favorable shape of the hand itself.

The attributes of it that made it so worthwhile...

Had outs within Washizu's hand.

The fact that the 6-9 wait it had...

This was also good luck!

Could be reasonably discerned as a Manzu Hon Itsu hand!

And also, the fact that the structure of the hand...

A fine flow!

Whether the hand was expensive or cheap was secondary to that!

Ideal, in fact!

And with that win under his belt...

Having that kind of shape to the hand is essential!

More than that, right now...

And on the contrary...

He had been waiting for the flow to return to him like this!

Akagi was being favored in this, his dealer turn!

The truth was...

A path had opened for Akagi!

Was being left behind!

Was-hizu...

This was to be expected.

How-ever...

Hands that would be completed if only he kept playing normally...

...slipped past him...

Through a number of rounds to this point, he had lost certain hands...

Though he had yet to realize it, himself...

IT CAN'T BE HELP-ED...

Time and time again!

Washizu's Hand

IS VERY SLOW, NOW... BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED...

WASHIZU-SAMA'S HAND...

THERE WAS NO WAY OF AVOIDING THIS!

IT'S INEVI-TABLE ...

KGH ....!

WAS-HIZU-SAMA...

STARTING RIGHT AFTER HE WON THAT DOUBLE YAKUMAN HAND...

IMMED-IATELY BEGAN TO FOLD EVERY HAND!

AND AFTER THAT...

HE FOLDED HIS WINNING KOKUSHI HAND...

HE LET SUZUKI WIN THROUGH TSUMO!

AND THEN, JUST LAST ROUND ...

EVEN THOUGH HE COULD BE IN CHII TOITSU TENPAI IF THE 5-MAN PASSED...

THAT SUZUKI HAD IN HIS HAND...

WAITING ON THE 4-MAN...

BUT BECAUSE HE WAS WARY OF AKAGI'S HON ITSU...

WAS ALL BUT DECIDED, THEN...

THAT RIICHI, IPPATSU CHII TOITSU ...

OF COU-RSE...

INTO AKAGI!

DEALING RIGHT INTO HIS HAND...

AND WOUND UP...

HE FOLDED ...

HOW-EVER...

THERE WAS NO PROBLEM LOGICALLY WITH DEAL-ING THE 9-PIN...

BACK-FIRING IS STILL BACK-FIRING!

THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD DEAL 5-MAN, IN THAT SPOT!

CONSI-DERING THIS TRE-MENDOUS LEAD HE HAS...

IT WAS PROBABLY ALREADY DECIDED...

THAT AKAGI WOULD GET ALL THE LUCK, THIS ROUND!

WHICH IS WHY...

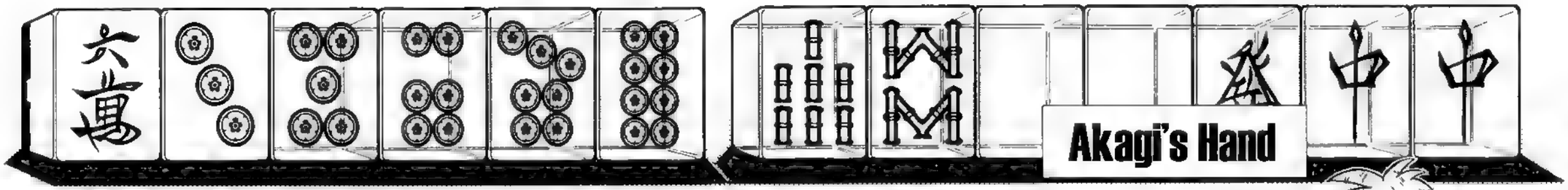
Washizu's Hand

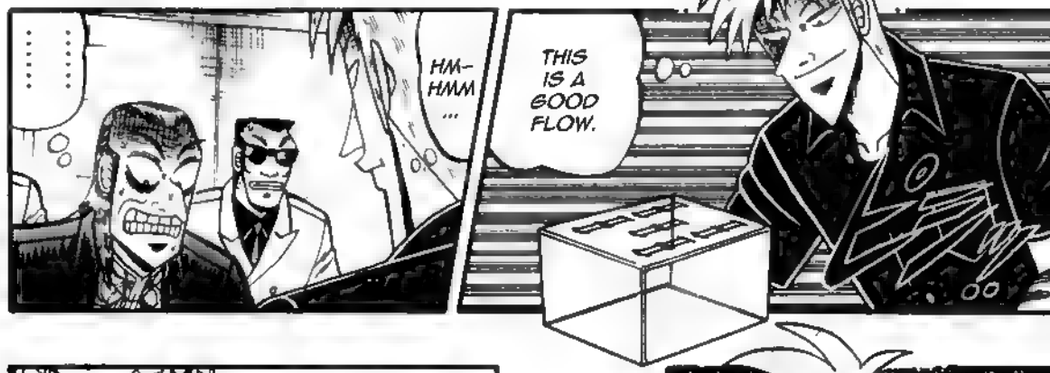
HM-
HMM-
HMM-
HMM...

SO THIS PART CAME TOGE-THER, HUH...

AL-RIGHT.

NOT BAD.





THIS IS THE FATEFUL MOMENT... WASHIZU.

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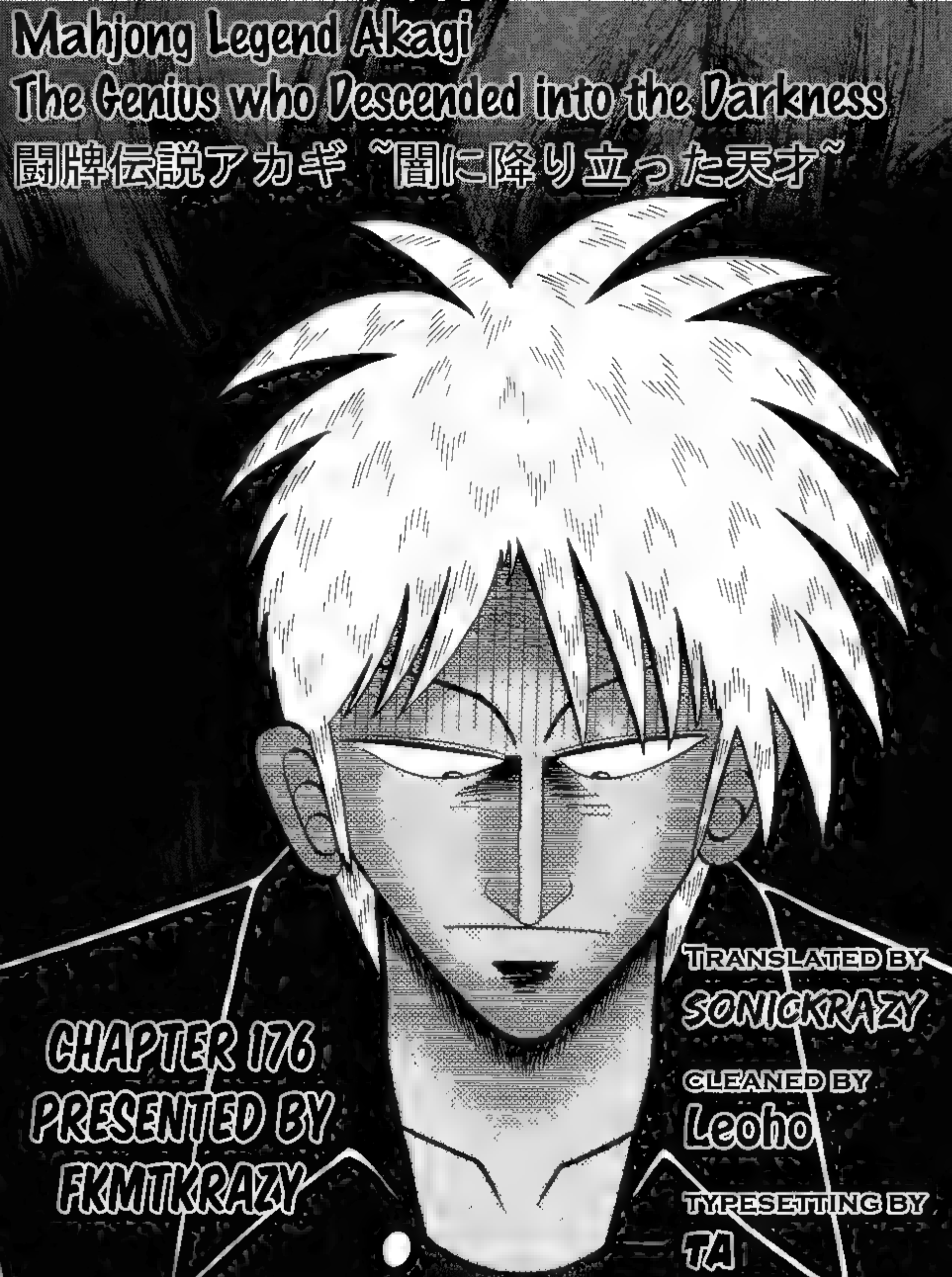

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YOU'LL HAVE CON-QUERED ME!

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO DO THAT...

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE... MAKE YOUR BRILLIANT ESCAPE, WASHIZU!

I'LL DIE!

YOU CAN KILL ME ANY TIME YOU WANT!

PLAIN AND SIMPLE!

CHAPTER 177:

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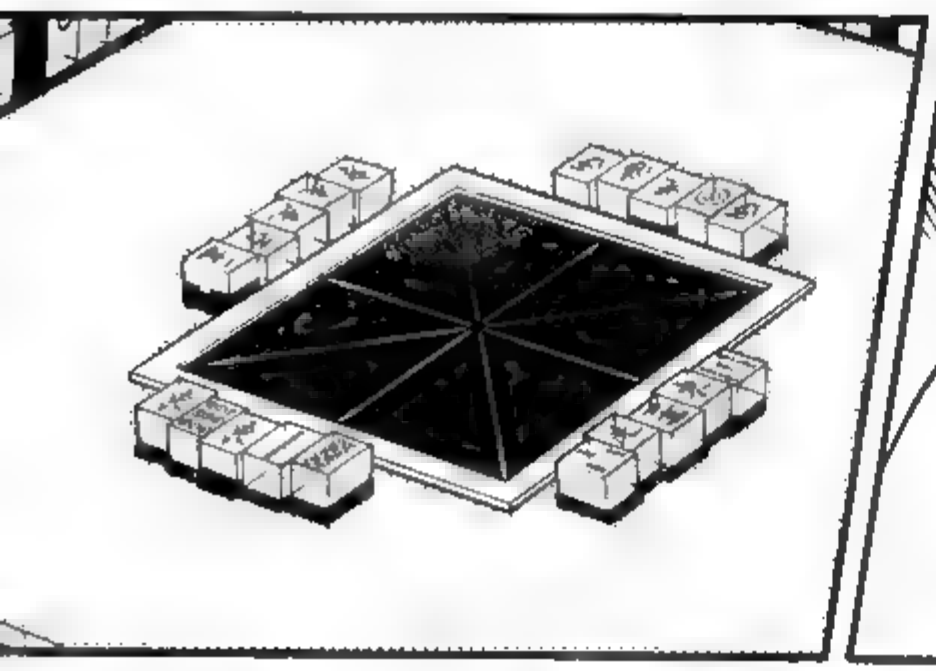
STRIKE



WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...?!

MAHJONG CAN BE REALLY SCARY ...!

WHAT'S WITH THIS OPENING WE'VE GOT ...?!

ドン

PAIRS OF HAKU AND CHUN, WITH A SINGLE HATSU!

……

AND THAT'S JUST FOR AKAGI...

Ooo

……

YASUOKA HAS ANOTHER CHUN AND HAKU!

AND FOR THIS ARRANGE-MENT...

TO HAVE ARISEN FROM THE STARTING HANDS, ALONE!

TO BE FAIR...

BUT THE SINGLE HATSU HE HAS...

HE CAN CALL ON THE HAKU AND CHUN WELL ENOUGH...

BUT STILL ...

STILL LEAVES A TALL HURDLE TO GO OVER BEFORE HE GETS THAT DAI SAN GEN...!

THAT TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WASHIZU AND AKAGI RIGHT NOW...

IF EVERY-THING GOES JUST THE RIGHT WAY...

IT'S 92,000 POINTS!

EVEN THEN...

IN A SINGLE STRIKE!

IT CAN BE WIPED AWAY!

AFTER ALL...

THE CHANCES FOR THAT AREN'T ZERO!

I MEAN ...

FROM THERE, HIS WAIT...

THAT WILL BE A DAI SAN GEN, RIGHT THERE!

BUT ANYWAY, IF HE CAN WORK 3 HATSU INTO HIS HAND...

OR A PON WOULD BE FINE AS WELL...

IF HE CAN GET A CLOSED TRIPLET OF THE HATSU...

CAN BE ANY-WHERE HE CHOOSES!

IF HE WAITS FOR, SAY, A SINGLE OPAQUE TILE...

IT'S POS-SIBLE!

EVEN THOUGH WASHIZU WILL BE ON THE COMPLETE DEFENSIVE AT THAT POINT...

IF HE THEN...

RUNS THROUGH ALL HIS BEST OPTIONS ...

AND IF HE DOES DEAL IN...

IT WILL BE A DEALER YAKUMAN FOR 48000 POINTS, MEANING...

96,000 ...!

HE MIGHT JUST DEAL WHAT AKAGI NEEDS!

IT CAN BE OVER-TAKEN!!

THAT MASSIVE 92,000-POINT DIFFERENCE!! .....

CAN BE OBLITE-RATED!!

THAT POINT DIFFER-ENCE...

THAT DIFFERENCE THAT DIDN'T EVEN SEEM WORTH FIGHTING AGAINST...

SO THIS IS MAH-JONG!

IT'S INCRED-IBLE!!

THEY CAN HAP-PEN!!

IT CAN ALL BE TURNED AROUND!

IN JUST ONE DEALING IN...

EVERY-THING CAN CHANGE!!

IN JUST ONE ROUND ...

UNIMAGINABLE MIRACLES CAN REALLY HAPPEN!!

AS A SAFE LEAD, IN THIS GAME!!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING...

HMM MM?!

.....

.....

IMBE-CILE!

.....

OVER THIS HOPELESS MESS?!

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT, OVER THERE?!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN EYESORE!

YOU GARB-AGE!!

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY IN YOUR DELUSIONS!

WHAT YOU'RE DANCING WITH JOY FOR, RIGHT NOW...

DO YOU REALLY THINK...

THAT KIND OF THING...

...CAN REALLY HAPPEN?!

1 TILE WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH...

BUT TWO OF THEM?!

JUST BY WANTING TO?!

FOR HIM TO DRAG IN HIS HATSU, THERE...

TWO COPIES OF EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED...?!

.....

YOU CAN'T !!

HAPPEN TO DRAW THAT HATSU...

I'LL SUP-POSE THAT HE DOES ...

TO TAKE YOUR POS-ITION FOR A MOMENT, AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME...

EVEN THEN, I WON'T DEAL INTO AN OPAQUE SINGLE WAIT!

FIRST OF ALL...

A SINGLE COPY...

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF THIS...

THE KEY FACTOR IN THIS ROUND...

OF THAT HATSU...

IN SUZUKI'S HAND!

HAS WANDERED OVER TO OUR SIDE...

AND FURTHER-MORE...

I HAVE IT IN MY CONTROL!

HAS REVEALED ITSELF TO ME!

THE SINGLE MOST TROUBLESOME OPAQUE TILE IN THIS ROUND...

IT'S THE OPAQUE HATSU!

I CAN SEE THEM ALL!

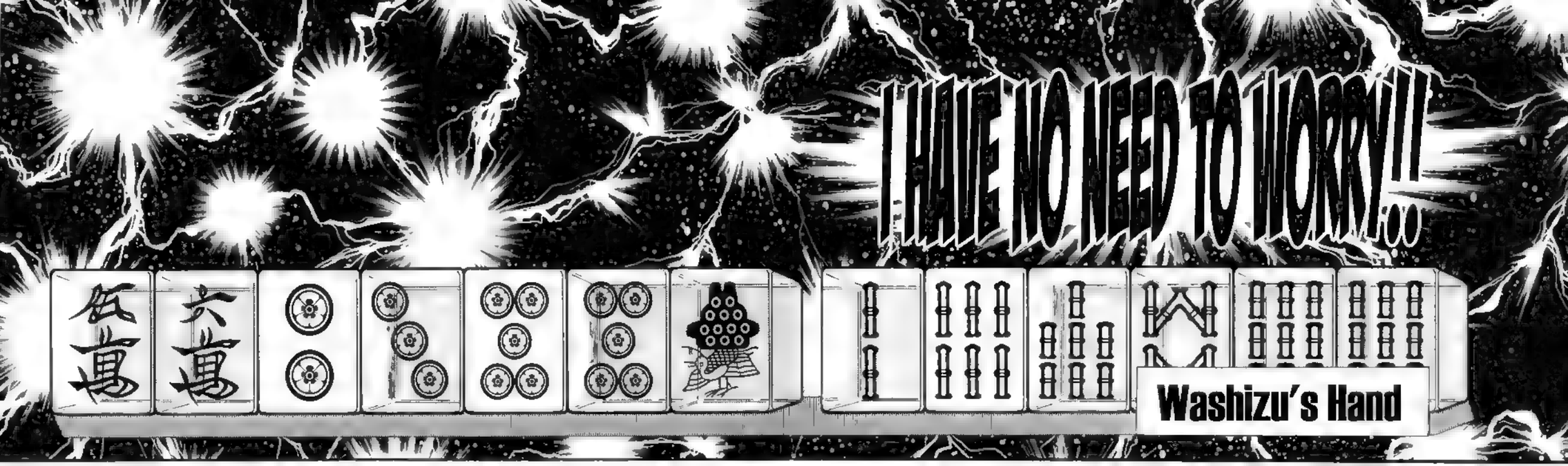
ALL THE REMAINING HATSU WILL BE TRANS-PARENT!

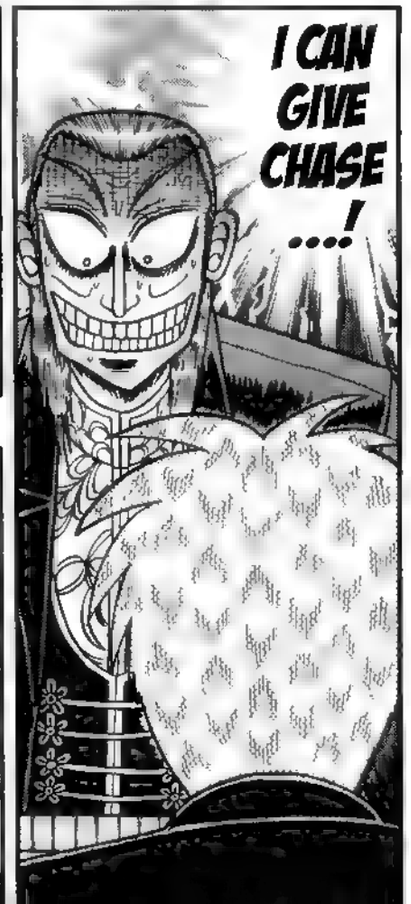
IN OTHER WORDS...

BUT AS THINGS ARE, I CAN KNOW IF AND WHEN YOU GET ONE!

THINGS WOULD BE COMPLICATED IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT WAS...

KHEH-HEH-HEH!

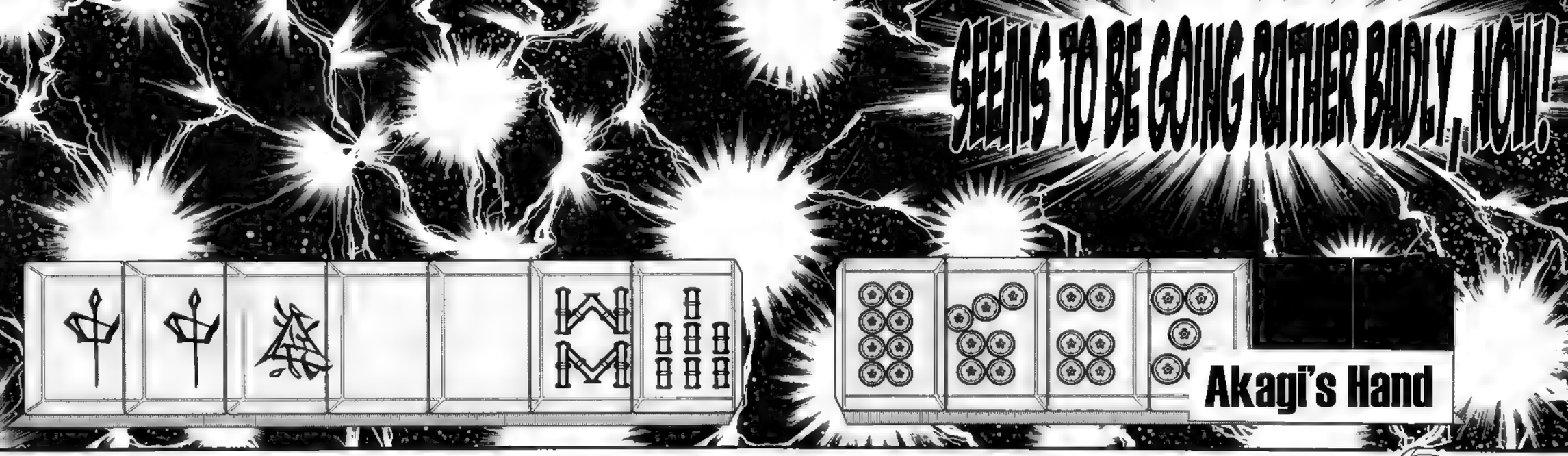

I HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY!!
Washizu's Hand

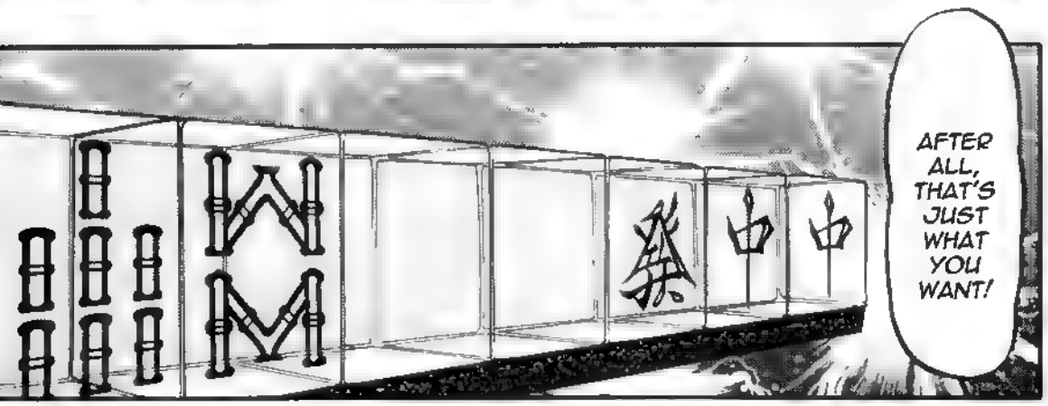

I CAN GIVE CHASE ...!

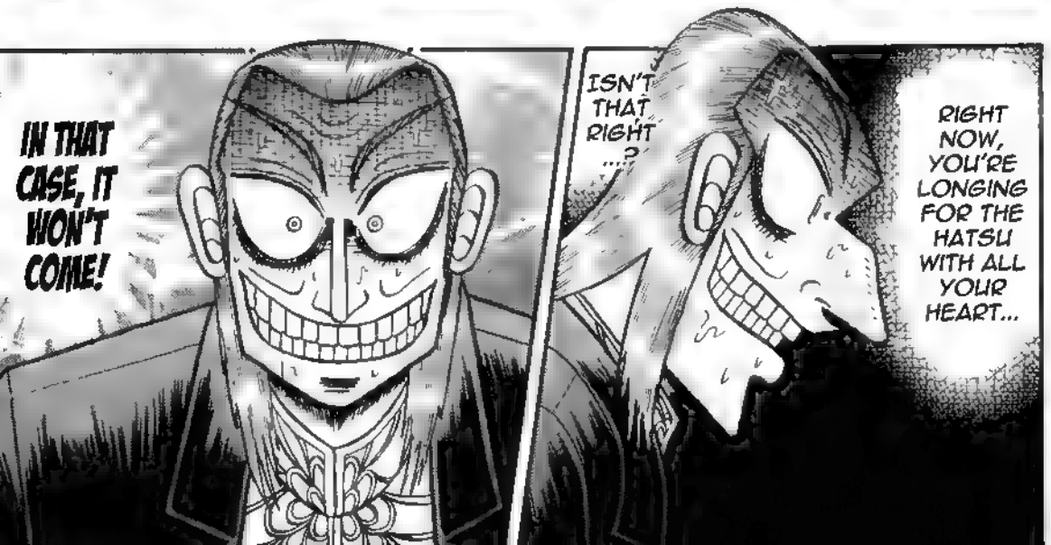
AND HIS HAND ...
I'VE MANAGED TO GET A HAND THAT CAN GIVE CHASE!

THEY'RE SLOWLY STARTING TO COME TO ME...!
GOOD, GOOD, GOOD...!

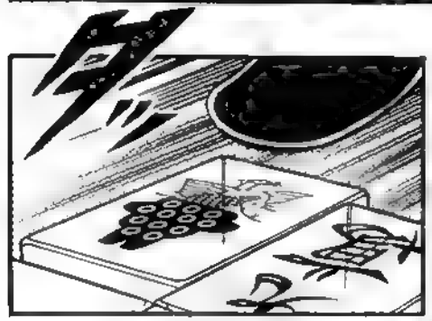
MY HAND HAS BEEN PROGRES-SING!
FOR 2 OR 3 TURNS, NOW...
IT WAS A TRASH HAND WITH GARBAGE DRAWS, BUT...


SEEMS TO BE GOING RATHER BADLY, NOW!
Akagi's Hand


AFTER ALL, THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU WANT!


IN THAT CASE, IT WON'T COME!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT...?
RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE LONGING FOR THE HATSU WITH ALL YOUR HEART...

HE WON'T DRAW IT!



THAT'S RIGHT!
KHEH-HEH-HEH...

.....

HE WON'T GET THAT TILE!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN GET IT!

AND THE SAME GOES FOR YOU!

THAT'S IT!

KHEH-HEH-HEH...

THEY'VE STOPPED! BOTH OF THEM HAVE HALTED!

THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE!

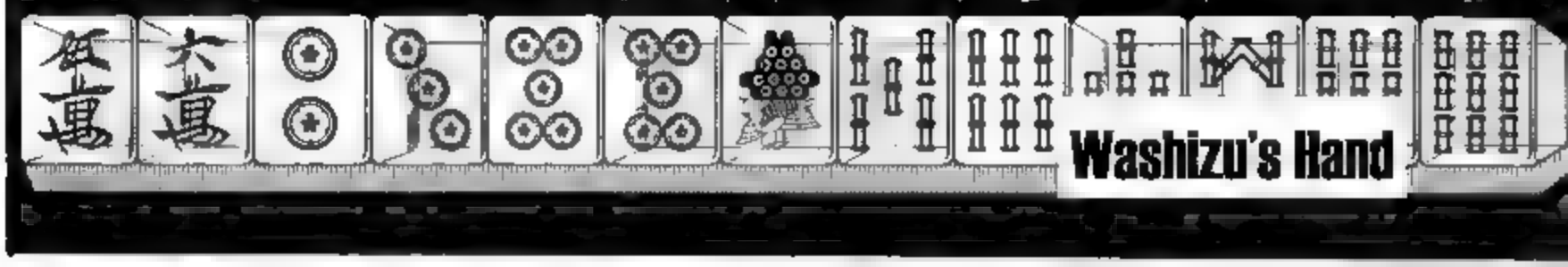
NOW, IN THIS INTER-LUDE ...

YES!!

HERE IT IS, NOW!!

THIS IS IT!!

JUST A LITTLE MORE...!



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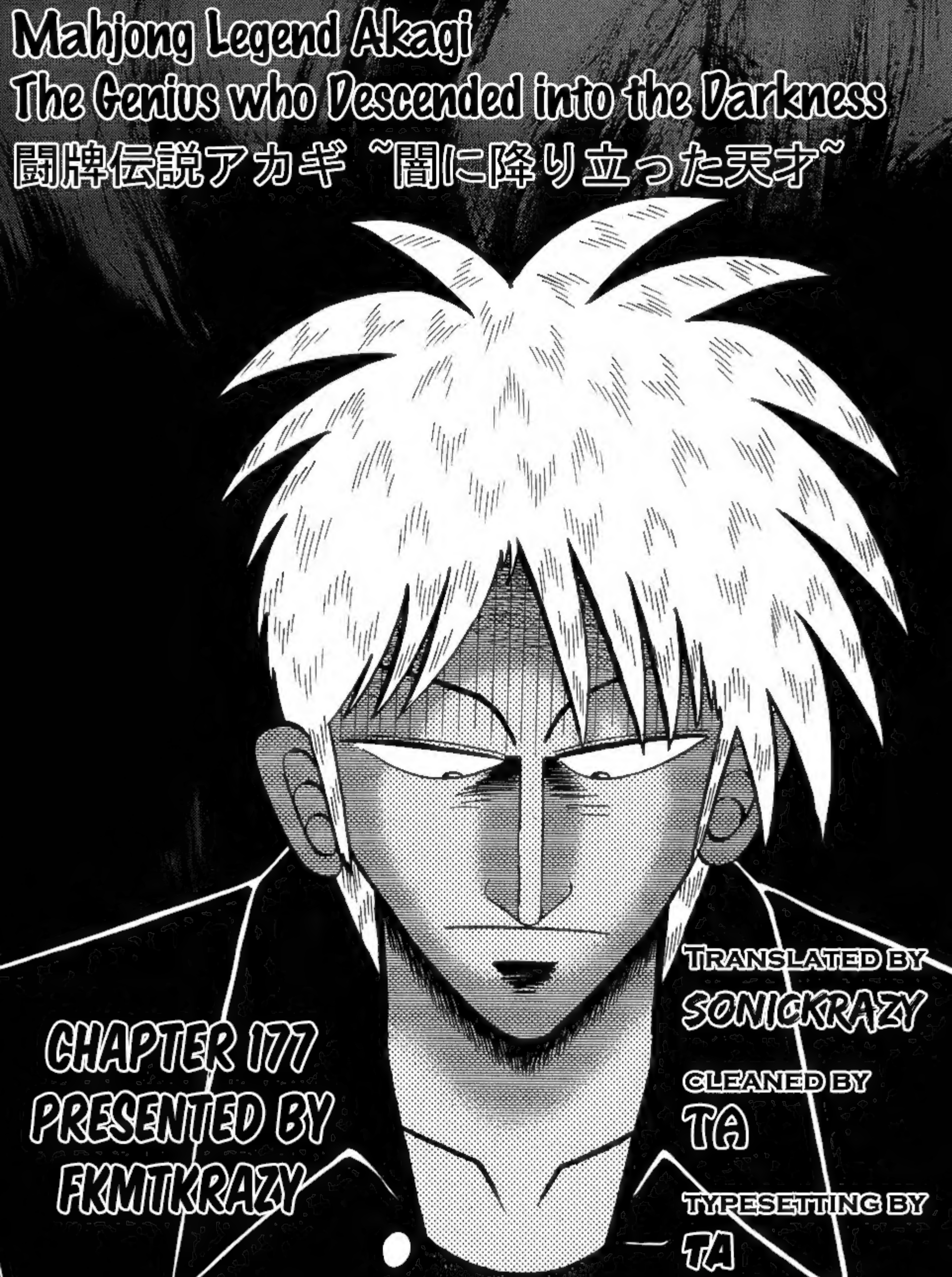

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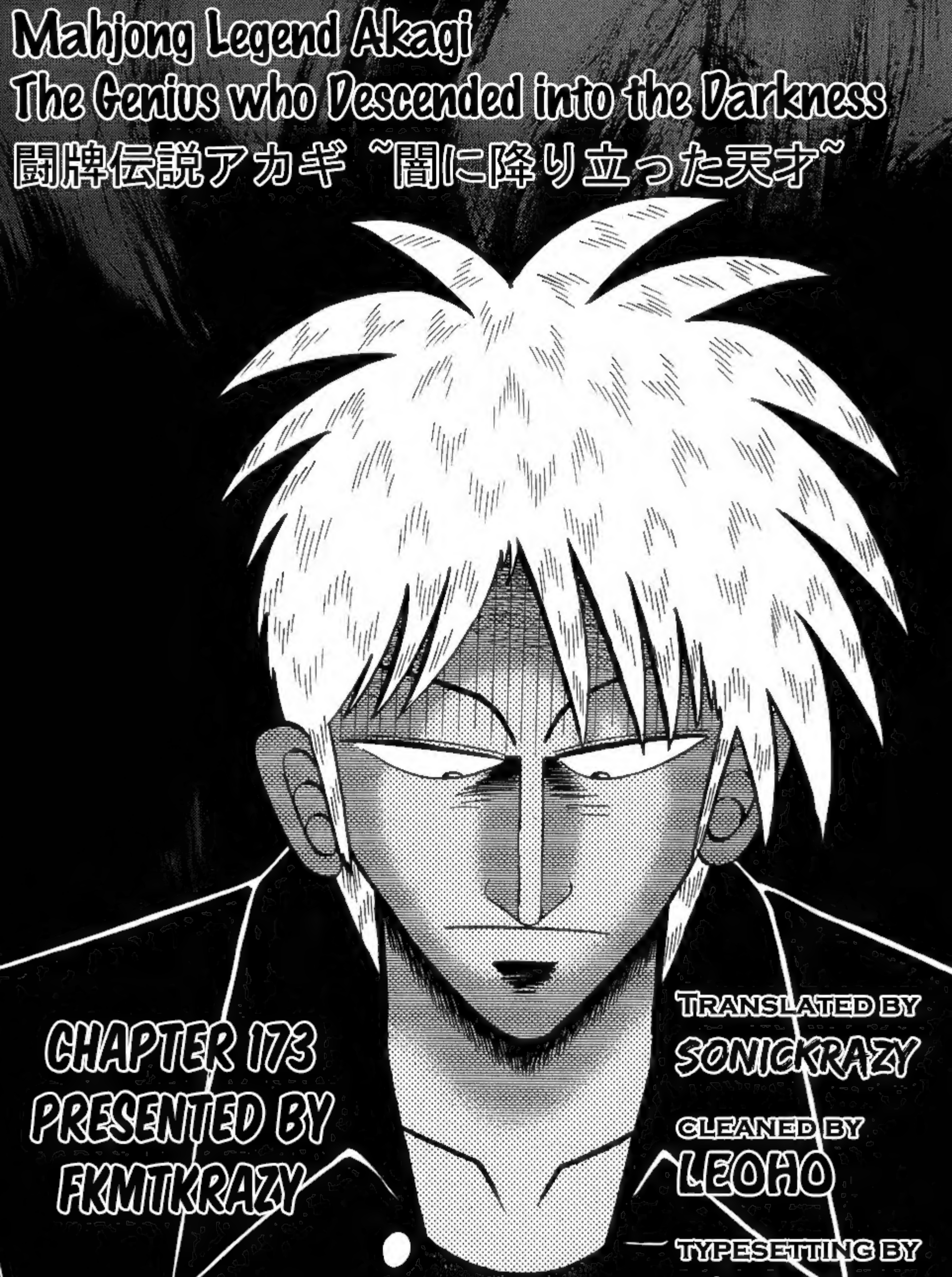

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